

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[Summerville, South Carolina]

HEARING # 10-11113

APRIL 26, 2010

6:00 P.M.

DOCKET NO. 2009-489-E:

SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY - Application for Increases
and Adjustments in Electric Rate Schedules and Tariffs

TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY
AND PROCEEDINGS

VOLUME 1

HEARING BEFORE: Elizabeth B. 'Lib' FLEMING, *CHAIRMAN*,
John E. "Butch" HOWARD, *VICE CHAIRMAN*; and COMMISSIONERS
David A. WRIGHT, G. O'Neal HAMILTON, Swain E. WHITFIELD, and
Randy MITCHELL.

ADVISOR TO COMMISSION: Joseph Melchers, Esq.

STAFF: Jocelyn G. Boyd, Interim Chief Clerk/Administrator; James
Spearman, Ph.D., Executive Assistant to Commissioners; Philip Riley
and William O. Richardson, Advisory Staff; Patty Sands, Executive
Staff; and Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM-GNSC, Court Reporter.

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ESQUIRE*, representing SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS
COMPANY, APPLICANT

TOM CLEMENTS, representing himself, INTERVENOR

*NANETTE S. EDWARDS, ESQUIRE, and SHANNON BOWYER
HUDSON, ESQUIRE*, representing THE OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Good evening, everyone.

What a great turnout tonight. I'm sure we'll hear a lot of good information in this hearing tonight. And I've already learned a lot. I've learned there's a 200 North Main and a 200 South Main, and I was at 200 North Main, which is also -- which is Dorchester County Council Chambers. So I've been all around that building, so I'm glad I finally got to the right location.

This evening -- first of all, I'd like to introduce some of our distinguished guests who are with us tonight. Representative Annette Young had written to request this meeting at this location tonight, and it's a lovely facility. So we're happy to have you here. Senator Paul Campbell, next to her, and Representative Jenny Horne, as well. And also Councilman Larry Hargett is here -- there you are in the back. Nice to have you here. And Council Member Aaron Brown. Is he here? He's outside? All right.

Well, we are delighted to have all of you here tonight, and at this time if any of you would like to say a few words, we would be happy to have you speak at this time -- the elected representatives.

1 We're going to open it up to the general public,
2 afterwards.

3 **SEN. CAMPBELL:** The ones who matter.

4 **REP. YOUNG:** Madam Chair and Commissioners,
5 welcome to Dorchester County and Summerville.
6 We're really pleased to have you in our town. As
7 you can tell, it's a beautiful city, with beautiful
8 flowers. We had them blooming for you when you
9 came in today.

10 I want to thank you for having this public
11 hearing in my County. I think it's very important
12 that my constituents be able to tell you their
13 frustrations that they have going on right now. We
14 have unemployment the highest that I've been --
15 I've been in service 20 years and never seen
16 unemployment in Dorchester County be at 10.5
17 percent. I know Statewide and in other counties,
18 it can go higher than that, but in Dorchester
19 County it's never, in 20 years, gone to that high.

20 I'm coming to you tonight, asking you to
21 really take that into consideration. This
22 recession we're in is affecting everybody in my
23 family, everybody in District 98, and I'm sure
24 everybody in your family. This type of increase
25 would hurt these people additionally, with people

1 losing their jobs and not having the income coming
2 in, so I ask you to take that into consideration.
3 I ask you to listen to all my County, their
4 concerns about these rate increases, and I ask you
5 to give them respect that I know that you will.
6 Thank you, so much.

7 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you for being here.

8 [Applause]

9 **SEN. CAMPBELL:** Madam Chair, distinguished
10 Commissioners, it is our pleasure to have you all
11 in this part of the world, because what you're
12 doing is a very, very important thing. You're
13 trying to look at what the citizens need and listen
14 to their interests. And as Representative Young
15 said, there's high unemployment in the area, people
16 are struggling right now, and yet we've got to look
17 at the business situation and what we need to do
18 with this rate increase. You all have very tough
19 decisions, because whatever we do could hurt these
20 people behind me, and we don't want to do that; we
21 want to help them right now, especially in this
22 time of high unemployment and the economy where it
23 is. You all have a very, very important task, and
24 I do appreciate you all bringing the hearing to
25 this location, because the citizens here can talk

1 to you about their specific needs. So if there's
2 anything that I can do in the Senate, or anything
3 any of the other senators can do, let us know if
4 you need additional information; we'll be happy to
5 get that for you. But thanks for coming down here
6 and thanks for listening to the citizens. Thank
7 you, so much.

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** We appreciate you being
9 here. And Representative Horne, if you would come
10 forward.

11 **REP. HORNE:** Thank you, Madam Chair,
12 Commissioners. Welcome to House District 94. This
13 is my House district. I represent the citizens in
14 the Town of Summerville, and we really appreciate
15 your coming to our beautiful town to hear from our
16 citizens. I would be repeating what Representative
17 Young and Senator Campbell have said, but, thank
18 you. I understand the job that you have before you
19 is a very difficult one, but we are here tonight to
20 listen to our citizens and hear their concerns, and
21 I hope that you will take all of these concerns
22 into your thoughtful consideration as you consider
23 the matters before you. Thank you again for your
24 time and thank you for coming to Summerville.

25 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** And I just want to say how

1 much we appreciate your being here, because we know
2 how busy you are right now, right in the middle of
3 the big budget sessions that are going forward. I
4 think that really shows how much you care about
5 your constituents, so thank you for being here.

6 And also -- yes, if Councilman Larry Hargett
7 would come forward.

8 **COUNCILMAN HARGETT:** Thank you, very much,
9 Commissioner Fleming and Commissioners. I have a
10 few prepared remarks, and I have two other meetings
11 to go to, so I hope I can make my remarks now.

12 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Oh, certainly. Please do.

13 **COUNCILMAN HARGETT:** I appreciate very much
14 you holding this hearing in Summerville. South
15 Carolina Electric & Gas' 2010 rate increase, and
16 particularly the timing of this increase, is very
17 important to our citizens and deserves all the time
18 and consideration that we, as elected officials,
19 and you, as appointed officials, can give to this
20 request.

21 I am a Dorchester County Councilman, a current
22 candidate for South Carolina House of
23 Representatives. During my door-to-door campaign
24 for this House seat, I hear over and over again
25 from citizens about their concern with high

1 electric and gas bills, and whether or not they can
2 pay their bills. Many are extremely upset, upon
3 learning about SCE&G's proposed 9½ percent rate
4 increase, and they really have asked if I could
5 help them.

6 I have personally passed out petitions to 40
7 businesses in the Greater Summerville and North
8 Charleston areas, and I will deliver to
9 Commissioner Fleming 1,225 signatures of people in
10 Dorchester County who are asking you to consider
11 denying this rate increase.

12 And I will hand those to you, with your
13 permission, right now [indicating].

14 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Yes [indicating]. What we
15 would like to do is pass this down to the court
16 reporter --

17 **COUNCILMAN HARGETT:** That's fine.

18 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** -- and she will enter it
19 into --

20 **COUNCILMAN HARGETT:** But these --

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** -- the evidence of the
22 case.

23 **COUNCILMAN HARGETT:** -- are real people of
24 Dorchester County. We have 525,000 that live in
25 this County, and I represent those people. I'm

1 here to speak for them tonight.

2 The timing for this rate increase versus the
3 citizens' inability to pay high electric and gas
4 bills, of course, with this current economic
5 situation we have, is bad. Our teachers and public
6 workers are being furloughed without pay right now.
7 Many are taking a pay decrease. Many of our
8 citizens have lost their jobs and are struggling to
9 make ends meet. I don't understand SCE&G'S timing
10 of this request, and I would like the company to
11 first do some belt-tightening. SCE&G has a captive
12 market --

13 [Applause]

14 **COUNCILMAN HARGETT:** -- and probably they view
15 this rate increase as an opportunity to increase
16 their profits, even though last year they had a
17 profit of over \$200 million.

18 **VOICE:** Yeah. Yeah.

19 [Applause]

20 **COUNCILMAN HARGETT:** Many of our local
21 businesses and industries have had to curtail
22 expenses just to stay in business. I talked to a
23 fellow who owned a Dairy Queen recently, and he
24 told me very flat-out, "I will go out of business
25 if my rates keep increasing. I cannot sustain

1 these electric bills."

2 As I represent all these folks in Dorchester
3 County, I respectfully request that the Public
4 Service Commission deny SCE&G's rate increase. I
5 also request the Public Service Commission to
6 define what an accepted public expenditure is for
7 SCE&G. Is this proposed rate increase not a
8 partial pass-through from electric and gas
9 customers to over 100 elected State officials, who,
10 last year, received SCE&G campaign gifts totaling
11 over \$150,000? Will campaign gifting to State
12 elected officials by SCE&G increase if the rate
13 increase is granted by the PSC? SCE&G does
14 contribute monies to local and State government
15 from time to time, for the creation of new jobs,
16 which is greatly appreciated, but for which SCE&G
17 also receives new customer revenues.

18 Thank you, very much, for giving me this time
19 to express the wishes of not only these 1,225
20 signators, but the people of Dorchester County.
21 Thank you, very much.

22 [Applause]

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Councilman Hargett, we
24 certainly appreciate your being here, too, and we
25 know the local elected officials are the ones who

1 are directly contacted with the people, so we
2 appreciate your efforts.

3 And also, Councilman Aaron Brown? Is he -- he
4 must not -- oh, here he is. All right. Great.
5 We're happy to have you here tonight, as well.

6 **COUNCILMAN BROWN:** Thank you. It's a pleasure
7 to be here. We understand that this is a difficult
8 topic to deal with, but we've had so many citizens
9 who have come to me in my district, who say that
10 they can't afford to pay their electric utility
11 bills right now.

12 The Town of Summerville is one of the few
13 jurisdictions here in this area that is holding our
14 franchise fee low. Right now we're looking at
15 possibly raising our franchise fee, which we, by
16 legislation, can raise another 2 percent. But we
17 were reluctant to do that, in light of the fact
18 that the utility is seeking a rate increase. We
19 understand that the timing is very bad. So I'm
20 opposed to our franchise fee increase, and really I
21 have to stand with the citizens and really oppose
22 and ask you not to grant this rate increase. And
23 if you have to grant a rate increase, grant a
24 marginal increase as opposed to something that
25 would create a greater burden on the citizens.

1 We understand, you know, that this is an
2 important issue and that SCE&G provides an
3 important service to the town and to the people of
4 this area, but still, as Mr. Hargett just stated,
5 this is a very, very difficult time. It's a
6 difficult time for the school district, difficult
7 time for institutions. So we feel that the timing
8 is the problem at this particular time, as opposed
9 to the needs of the franchise. So I have to stand
10 with the citizens, and we're requesting that you
11 deny this. Thank you.

12 [Applause]

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you, Councilman
14 Brown, for your kind remarks, as well. Thank you.
15 And also I believe Councilman Chris Murphy is here
16 and would like to speak? Good to have you here
17 also.

18 **COUNCILMAN MURPHY:** Thank you. Thank you,
19 Madam Chairman, fellow Commissioners. I wanted to
20 also welcome you to Dorchester County and the Town
21 of Summerville. I represent District 2 in
22 Dorchester County, and we appreciate you coming
23 down here, taking the time to listen to the
24 citizens of Dorchester County as they explain to
25 you their concerns with the rate increase,

1 especially during this economic climate. So again,
2 thank you for coming down.

3 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you for being here.

4 [Applause]

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Are there any other elected
6 officials here tonight, who would like to speak?

7 [No response]

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** If not, at this time I'm
9 going to turn the speaker over to our attorney,
10 Joseph Melchers, who is going to talk a little bit
11 about the procedures that we'll have tonight as we
12 enter into this hearing.

13 **MR. MELCHERS:** Good evening. My name is
14 Joseph Melchers. I'm general counsel to the
15 Commission. This is the local public hearing for
16 Docket No. 2009 -- can't hear me?

17 **VOICES:** No.

18 **MR. MELCHERS:** Is that better?

19 **VOICES:** No.

20 **MR. MELCHERS:** How about now?

21 **VOICE:** That'll work.

22 **VOICE:** Can you stand up? Nobody can see you
23 much.

24 **MR. MELCHERS:** Let's try this again. Is that
25 better?

1 **VOICES:** That's better.

2 **MR. MELCHERS:** Okay. My name is Joseph
3 Melchers. I'm general counsel for the Commission.
4 This is the local public hearing for Docket No.
5 2009-489-E, South Carolina Electric & Gas Company's
6 application for an increase in rates and charges.

7 In just a moment I'm going to be calling the
8 names of those who have signed up to come forward
9 and give their statements to the Commission
10 regarding the rate increase proposed by the
11 company.

12 Tonight's hearing is part of the overall
13 process that the Commission goes through when
14 considering a rate case. Just to give you a
15 summary of the process, the company files an
16 application for its proposed rate changes. Notice
17 of that request is then published to the public.
18 In a case like this one, the Commission sets up one
19 or more evening public hearings, so that the public
20 may be heard regarding any concerns it may have
21 about the company's application.

22 There is another public hearing set for
23 tomorrow night at the International Longshoremen's
24 Association at 1142 Morrison Drive in Charleston.
25 Also, another is set for Thursday, May 6th, at the

1 Aiken Technical College amphitheater, Room 701,
2 2276 Jefferson Davis Highway, Graniteville, South
3 Carolina. Also, beginning on Monday, May 24th, at
4 10:30, in the Commission's hearing room at 101
5 Executive Center Drive, Columbia, South Carolina
6 29210, the Commission will continue the process by
7 hearing from, among other witnesses, accountants
8 and engineers who have analyzed the company's rate
9 increase request. On that same evening, beginning
10 at 6 p.m., the Commission will hold another evening
11 public hearing at the same location, to provide
12 further opportunity for the public to be heard
13 regarding any concerns about the company's
14 application.

15 At this time I'm going to ask you again to
16 please, if you've got cell phones on, if you would
17 turn those to vibrate or turn them off, we would
18 very much appreciate it.

19 I'm going to ask our Chair to introduce the
20 Commission and the parties at this time, and then
21 I'll have some more instructions for you about the
22 testimony that we're going to receive.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. The
24 Commissioners up here, to my far left is
25 Commissioner O'Neal Hamilton; next to him is

1 Commissioner David Wright; and Commissioner Butch
2 Howard, our Vice Chairman, is next to them. Then
3 to my far right are Commissioner Swain Whitfield
4 and Commissioner Randy Mitchell. And I am Lib
5 Fleming and I am Chair of the Public Service
6 Commission.

7 At this time, I'd like to ask for South
8 Carolina Electric & Gas to tell us who represents
9 them tonight.

10 **MR. BURGESS:** Good evening, Madam Chairman,
11 members of the Commission. My name is Chad Burgess
12 and --

13 **VOICE:** Can't hear you.

14 **VOICE:** We can't hear.

15 **MR. BURGESS:** My name is Chad Burgess. I'm
16 corporate counsel for SCE&G, and with me tonight
17 are Matt Gissendanner and Mitchell Willoughby, of
18 the law firm Willoughby & Hoefer. Together, we
19 represent SCE&G.

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Very good. And
21 who represents the Office of Regulatory Staff?

22 **MS. EDWARDS:** Good evening. My name is
23 Nanette Edwards. I'm here representing the South
24 Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff. And here with
25 me tonight is Shannon Hudson.

1 Madam Chair, if it's appropriate, I would also
2 like to introduce Chad Campbell of our Consumer
3 Services Department.

4 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Sure.

5 **MS. EDWARDS:** Chad, can you please wave your
6 hand?

7 **MR. CAMPBELL:** [Indicating.]

8 **MS. EDWARDS:** Chad is available during and
9 after the hearing, if any of the public has
10 questions about the Consumer Services Division.

11 **VOICE:** Could you identify Chad again, please?

12 **MS. EDWARDS:** Chad, can you raise your hand
13 again?

14 **MR. CAMPBELL:** [Indicating.]

15 **MS. EDWARDS:** And we are available to take any
16 complaints, issues, that you have regarding SCE&G.
17 We do function in that regard; we have a Consumer
18 Services Division, and we would be happy to provide
19 more information to you during or after the
20 hearing. We will be available. And also with him
21 is Michael Cartin, who is in our Electric
22 Department. Thank you, Madam Chair.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. And I believe
24 we have some of our other intervenors here tonight?
25 If you would like to stand up and give your name

1 please?

2 **MR. CLEMENTS:** I'm Tom Clements, and I've
3 intervened as an individual in the docket, and will
4 appear May 24th before the Public Service
5 Commission.

6 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Well, in addition,
7 if anyone else is here, you can raise your hand
8 when I list the -- Frank Knapp is here, as
9 intervening. The South Carolina Energy Users is
10 intervening. The Department of the Navy, Wal-
11 Mart, CMC Steel, Pamela Greenlaw, and the Women's
12 Shelter --

13 [Applause]

14 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** -- are all intervening in
15 the case, as well. And at this time -- well, I
16 understand that South Carolina Electric & Light has
17 something they would like to bring before us at
18 this time.

19 **MR. BURGESS:** We do, Madam Chairman. May it
20 please the Commission, before any public witnesses
21 are --

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Gas. I'm sorry.

23 **MR. BURGESS:** That's quite all right.

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** That was being redundant,
25 wasn't it?

1 **MR. BURGESS:** Well, I --

2 **VOICE:** Could you come over to the microphone?

3 **VOICE:** Come to the mike.

4 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Do you have a microphone
5 available to you?

6 **MR. BURGESS:** I do not have a microphone, but
7 I'll be happy to walk around [indicating].

8 *[Indiscernible vocalizations from*
9 *audience]*

10 **MR. BURGESS:** Madam Chairman, may it please
11 the Commission, before any public witnesses are
12 called to take the stand, the company would like to
13 state its objection on the record that any customer
14 testimony that is offered here tonight may contain
15 statements that are outside the scope of this
16 proceeding and, therefore, are not a proper basis
17 for determining just and reasonable rates.

18 Given the manner of this proceeding, SCE&G
19 does not know who is going to testify, we don't
20 know what the witnesses are going to testify about,
21 and as a result, this denies the applicant due
22 process of law, and that is the basis of our
23 objection. SCE&G would request this objection be
24 deemed a continuing objection, such that there
25 would not be a need for repeated objection at each

1 time a public witness testifies, to the nature of
2 their testimony. The continuing objection would
3 also apply to documents and testimony elicited by
4 any of the other parties of record, as well as the
5 Commission. And we would ask, Madam Chairman, that
6 you defer this ruling on the continuing objection
7 until the Commission issues its final order in this
8 case.

9 And Madam Chairman, for the record, it's not
10 the company's intent to dissuade anybody from
11 testifying here tonight. To the contrary, we
12 certainly welcome comments from our customers. But
13 since this is a legal proceeding, which is governed
14 by the Rules of Evidence and also governed by the
15 Rules of Civil Procedure, it's necessary from a
16 legal standpoint to put this objection on the
17 record.

18 And, in addition, Madam Chairman, I understand
19 that there was a petition handed up earlier
20 tonight. I wasn't sure if that was moved into the
21 record or not, but to the extent it was, we would
22 object to that document on the grounds that it
23 represents hearsay. Madam Chairman, that's our
24 objection.

25 *[Indiscernible vocalizations from*

audience]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Please, this is a hearing, and we have certain procedures that we need to follow. And if you could please -- I know there's a lot of emotions tied into this, a lot of strong feelings, but we would request that you remain quiet, so that the proceeding can move along in an orderly fashion. And also -- Mr. Melchers was going to mention this later, but I believe this may be an appropriate time -- we would also request that you refrain from clapping or cheering when someone speaks. Just remember that we are in -- this is a hearing procedure, and we need to follow the proper guidelines for that.

So, Ms. Hudson.

MS. HUDSON: Madam Chairman, my name is Shannon Hudson. I'm an attorney with the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff. I would like to respond to the company's request.

Before I do so, I want to thank you for having this night hearing, and all the members of the Commission. And I want to thank the members of the public for coming tonight.

Madam Chairman, the Office of Regulatory Staff asks that if the company's objection is granted, we

1 would ask that after the transcript is published
2 from tonight's hearing, that the company be
3 required to file within a reasonable time a filing
4 to be placed on the Commission's website, setting
5 forth specifically the testimony that is objected
6 to, the name of the speaker, and the reason for the
7 objection. We think it would be fair for the
8 speakers tonight to be able to look on the website
9 to see if any portion of their testimony has been
10 objected to. We think it would be fair, especially
11 to people who are taking time out of their personal
12 lives to appear, and we think that's a reasonable
13 plan. We would also ask to reserve our right to
14 respond to any filings with the Commission. Madam,
15 thank you.

16 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. This will all
17 be so noted, and ruled on in the final order.
18 Thank you, so much.

19 **MS. HUDSON:** Thank you, Madam Chairman.

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** And, also, are you going to
21 discuss the timeframes?

22 **MR. MELCHERS:** Yes, ma'am.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.

24 **MR. MELCHERS:** Madam Chairman, first I would
25 like to put on the record that the petition --

1 **VOICE:** Can't hear.

2 **VOICE:** You're not on.

3 **MR. MELCHERS:** How about now?

4 **VOICE:** No.

5 **MR. MELCHERS:** Can you all hear me now?

6 **VOICE:** Yeah.

7 **VOICE:** Fair.

8 **MR. MELCHERS:** Are you hearing me now?

9 **VOICE:** Yeah, we are.

10 **MR. MELCHERS:** Okay. Madam Chairman, the
11 petition that was offered up by Councilman Hargett
12 would be placed into the record as Exhibit No. 1.

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.

14 [WHEREUPON, Hearing Exhibit No. 1 was
15 marked and received in evidence.]

16 **MR. MELCHERS:** All right. Folks, tonight's
17 hearing is about you and your testimony. Our court
18 reporter, Jo Wheat, will be recording everything
19 you have to say when you're sworn in. We ask that
20 you state your name and your address after you've
21 been sworn in, and please speak into the
22 microphone. Hopefully, yours is working better
23 than mine. This is your opportunity to place your
24 thoughts regarding the proposed rate increase on
25 the Commission's official record. This is not the

1 time to ask the Commission questions. This is
2 about your testimony tonight. The Commission can't
3 discuss the case with you at this time or answer
4 questions regarding the case, but as you have
5 heard, the utility and the Office of Regulatory
6 Staff have people here who will be available to
7 answer questions that you might have at the end of
8 this proceeding.

9 The Commission will continue to gather
10 evidence in this case until the conclusion of our
11 many hearings. Thereafter, the Commission will
12 then consider all of the information that it gets
13 from all of its hearings and will render a decision
14 on this matter on or before July 20, 2010.

15 I did want to mention that, due to the large
16 number of people we have here tonight and the fact
17 that we want to give each one a chance to speak,
18 the Commission has requested a time limit of five
19 minutes on each speaker. Please recognize that
20 there are a number of speakers that have signed up
21 to be heard, so you can really help us if you can
22 tell us what you want to tell us within that amount
23 of time.

24 I do want to tell you that if you give
25 testimony tonight, you will be subject to questions

1 from the parties and the Commissioners. Please
2 remain at the podium for a moment after giving your
3 statement, so that the Commissioners or the lawyers
4 may ask you any questions.

5 Finally, I want to mention to you that if you
6 speak tonight, you're not permitted to speak at
7 other evening public hearings or at the
8 Commission's meeting in Columbia, unless otherwise
9 directed by the Commission. The usual rule is one
10 bite at the apple. Furthermore, if you have filed
11 as an intervenor -- and I believe other than ORS,
12 Mr. Clements is the only one present tonight who is
13 an intervenor in the case -- we would ask that you
14 hold your testimony until May 24th at the Columbia
15 hearing.

16 If another person before you says what you
17 want to say, it's okay to just decline to speak and
18 say, "So-and-so has already said what I wanted to
19 say."

20 At this time I'm going to call the first
21 witness. And our first witness, I believe, has
22 been here since 5 o'clock. Mr. Timmons, could you
23 please come forward? Thank you.

24 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

25 THEREUPON came,

1 **N O R M A N T I M M O N S ,**
2 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
3 follows:

4 **WITNESS:** Madam Chairman, if y'all can kind of
5 bear with me, this is the first time I've done
6 this, and I'm kind of nervous. My name is Norman
7 Timmons, and I live at Bowman, South Carolina, at
8 6114 Charleston Highway, Bowman, South Carolina.

9 Anyway, I come here because I'm really on a
10 limited income, and I can't afford -- I get Social
11 Security and I live on limited income, and I can't
12 afford another rate hike. And more and more;
13 where's this going to end? And then I'm worried
14 about this tax-and-trade or whatever, you know what
15 I'm talking about? It's supposed to come about.
16 They're trying to get it, the government. So I'm
17 worried about all these things, and there's a lot
18 of other people that's worried about the same
19 thing.

20 I don't think that they should get this hike,
21 unless they have a mighty good reason. That's how
22 I feel about it. Because a lot of people can't
23 afford it, like I can't. And that's really all
24 I've got to say.

25 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Well, we appreciate your

1 being here and being so patient to wait over an
2 hour to be here. Thank you for that. Just a
3 minute, and let's see if there are any questions.
4 Mr. Burgess?

5 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions, Madam Chair.

6 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Ms. Edwards.

7 **MS. EDWARDS:** Just one question.

8 **CROSS EXAMINATION**

9 **BY MS. EDWARDS:**

10 **Q** Could you state your address again? I'm sorry. 611
11 Charleston Highway?

12 **A** 6114 Charleston Highway, Bowman, South Carolina, ZIP
13 Code 29018.

14 **MS. EDWARDS:** Thank you.

15 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

16 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** And Commissioners, do you
17 have any questions?

18 [No response]

19 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right, you may sit
20 down.

21 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

22 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you, sir.

23 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

24 **MR. MELCHERS:** The next witness is Carol Cook.

25 **VOICE:** Madam Chairman, I request that the

1 timer be placed where the witnesses may be able to
2 see it.

3 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Where is it?

4 **MS. BOYD:** [Indicating.]

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. And this is Ms.
6 Boyd, the Director out at the Public Service
7 Commission.

8 **MS. BOYD:** Good evening.

9 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

10 THEREUPON came,

11 **C A R O L R . C O O K ,**

12 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
13 follows:

14 **WITNESS:** My name is Carol Cook, 232 Frankie
15 Lane, Ladson, South Carolina 29456.

16 Madam Chairman and gentlemen of the board, I'm
17 not a very eloquent speaker, but how dare --

18 **VOICE:** Amen.

19 **WITNESS:** -- South Carolina Electric & Gas say
20 that we need another atomic plant. What about all
21 the waste we have here now that's coming in?
22 People laugh at us and say we've got the glowing
23 state. Enough is enough. There's other ways of
24 getting electricity. You don't have to go this
25 way.

1 And as far as the electric bills goes, the
2 weather is not -- apparently, it's going to get
3 colder during the wintertime, and I don't know
4 about you all, but I got an electric bill that was
5 almost \$300 this month -- or, in January. And I
6 had to borrow money to be able to pay it. And I
7 just don't feel that we're going to be able to
8 continue on this way. And that's all I can think
9 of right now. But I'm mad.

10 [Applause]

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Burgess, do you have
12 any questions?

13 **MR. BURGESS:** No, ma'am, no questions.

14 [Laughter]

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards?

16 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Commissioners.
18 Just a minute. Commissioners?

19 [No response]

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Thank you, very
21 much.

22 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

23 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you, ma'am.

24 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

25 **MR. MELCHERS:** The next witness is Jennifer

1 Massey.

2 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

3 THEREUPON came,

4 J E N N I F F E R M A S S E Y ,

5 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
6 follows:

7 WITNESS: Jenniffer Massey, 4165 Mill Creek
8 Drive, North Charleston, South Carolina 29420.
9 Thank you for being here tonight.

10 This is kind of a rough draft [indicating]. I
11 said I am emphatically opposed to a rate increase
12 for SCE&G. Repeatedly throughout the year, SCE&G
13 has sent out notices to request rate increases.
14 These rate increases have caused financial
15 hardships on people during a financially fragile
16 time.

17 Just in the month of January 2010, alone,
18 SCE&G had an average of a 15 percent higher
19 electric bills for their customers. Despite my
20 efforts to purchase energy-efficient appliances and
21 to properly insulate my own home, my bill has
22 climbed despite a drastic decline in my kilowatt
23 usage. SCE&G recently installed digital readers on
24 homes in my neighborhood, and I expect that they
25 will be sure to pass that cost on to us, as well.

1 A news report stated that SCE&G's average bill
2 was \$130. Even in a two-person household I have
3 never had a bill that low. Now, in a four-person
4 household, despite all my efforts to conserve, my
5 bill averages \$330 a month. And I certainly doubt
6 that I am in a rare category. At a 9 percent
7 increase, that would increase my bills almost \$30 a
8 month, or \$360 a year.

9 In conclusion, I am strongly opposed to
10 approving a rate increase for SCE&G.

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you, Ms. Massey.

12 [Applause]

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Burgess?

14 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards?

16 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Commissioners?

18 [No response]

19 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Thank you, you
20 may sit down.

21 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

22 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you, ma'am.

23 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

24 **MR. MELCHERS:** The next witness is Heyward
25 Hutson.

[Witness sworn/affirmed]

THEREUPON came,

H E Y W A R D H U T S O N ,

who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as follows:

WITNESS: My name is Heyward Hutson. My address is 215 Golf Road, Summerville, 29483.

And I do -- I want to commend the Commission. I have a high regard for the job that you have to do, and I also have a high regard for the employees of South Carolina Electric & Gas to turn out on the coldest nights in the middle of the winter and get our electricity going again.

But, I brought along tonight my bills for the last four months, just to keep me focused on why we're here. And it really is outrageous. My bill for December was \$436.55. My bill for January was \$748.58.

VOICE: Yes, yes.

WITNESS: My bill for February was \$466.94. And my bill for March was \$480.85. A total of \$2,132.92 for four months. This is despite the fact that I have steel siding on my house, I have a new roof, and I have -- we only heat and cool the parts of the house that we live in. I also have

1 storm windows on my windows.

2 This disturbs me that SCE&G should try to get
3 such an enormous rate increase, 10 percent. And I
4 want to tell you that it's just not a rate increase
5 for SCE&G, because most of us live in the
6 municipalities, and we have, in Summerville, a 3
7 percent franchise fee on top of the bill. And
8 recently, the Town of Summerville made two attempts
9 to increase that franchise fee from 3 percent to 5
10 percent. So if you were to grant SCE&G a 10
11 percent -- almost a 10 percent increase in their
12 bills, then the Town of Summerville benefits on top
13 of that, and our costs go up even more. So it's a
14 double whammy.

15 Now, I think you -- our legislators -- this is
16 something that you can't do, but our legislators
17 ought to be capping that franchise fee, because it
18 is going to -- it's a percentage of your bill. And
19 it's going to mean that our bills are going to go
20 up, up, up exponentially, and not just a flat
21 amount.

22 I'm running out of time, but I request that
23 you look at that. I request that you also consider
24 political contributions. Public utilities should
25 not be dispensing political contributions, period,

1 and I think you should deduct that from any
2 consideration you have for any rate increase.

3 I also think you should consider what the
4 utility gets from Santee Cooper in the way of
5 power, because I understand the electric co-op is
6 giving a rate reduction --

7 **VOICE:** It is.

8 **WITNESS:** -- at the same time --

9 **VOICE:** It is.

10 **VOICE:** It is.

11 **WITNESS:** -- SCE&G is asking for a rate
12 increase.

13 [Applause]

14 **WITNESS:** And the last thing that I have to
15 put to you is -- because I'm running out of time --
16 is the fact that SCE&G gives a 6 percent dividend
17 on their stock for their investors. That's
18 consistent. And most companies, big companies like
19 GE and others, have had to reduce their dividends.
20 I'm out of time, sorry.

21 [Applause]

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** If you have something more
23 to say, we'll give you some more time.

24 **WITNESS:** I'm just saying that I don't think
25 SCE&G -- when giving that kind of dividend on a

1 consistent basis over time, that they should be
2 embarrassed to come before the Public Service
3 Commission and ask for a rate increase. They
4 should have to -- and in these economic times, they
5 should have to reduce their dividend before they
6 come asking for more money.

7 [Applause]

8 **VOICE:** Thank you.

9 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** And just before we see if
10 Mr. Burgess has any questions, just let me remind
11 you to please refrain from applause and vocal
12 approval. We know you feel strongly about this,
13 but if you would just refrain from that. Mr.
14 Burgess?

15 **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions of this
16 witness, Madam Chairman.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards?

18 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions, thank you.

19 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners.

20 [No response]

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** No questions? All right,
22 you may sit down. Thank you.

23 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you, sir.

24 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

25 **MR. MELCHERS:** Haskell Brown. Haskell Brown

1 is the next witness.

2 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

3 THEREUPON came,

4 H A S K E L L B R O W N ,

5 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
6 follows:

7 WITNESS: My name is Haskell Brown and I live
8 at 112 Sandra Lane, Ladson. I'm also a candidate
9 for County Council, District 2. My reason for
10 running for County Council is that 31 houses in my
11 subdivision routinely lose power. They've been
12 doing that since I moved there in '79. Nothing has
13 been done about it. When we were flying high and
14 there was plenty of bucks, nothing was done.

15 I worked my way through the chain. They told
16 me something real interesting, that I couldn't talk
17 to you because you're all treated as classified as
18 judges. I want that fixed.

19 VOICE: Why is that? Why can't you -- I had
20 the same thing happen.

21 WITNESS: It's a barrier between these people
22 out here who'd like to talk to you --

23 VOICE: Yes. Thank you.

24 WITNESS: You see where I'm going with this?

25 VOICE: Yes.

1 **WITNESS:** It's an obstacle course --

2 **VOICE:** And they're not --

3 **WITNESS:** -- like something the Army puts up.

4 **VOICE:** And they're not elected by us, either.

5 **WITNESS:** Anyway, this is what happened to me.

6 As far as I'm concerned, it's a symbiotic
7 relationship between South Carolina Electric & Gas
8 and the Public Service Commission.

9 **MS. EDWARDS:** Madam Chair, would you like for
10 me to address -- sir, my name is Nanette Edwards,
11 and I'm an attorney with the Office of Regulatory
12 Staff. Can you hear me? And what happens is --
13 and I would be happy to explain this to you
14 separately. We have Chad Campbell here. The
15 Commissioners sit as judges.

16 **WITNESS:** I want everybody to hear you --
17 [indicating].

18 **MS. EDWARDS:** The Office of Regulatory Staff
19 has a Consumer Services Division. When you put
20 your call through to the Commission, you hopefully
21 should be redirected to our office, the South
22 Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff. And you are
23 correct, they are under the Judicial Code of
24 Conduct and they sit as any judge would in any
25 hearing. If you go to court and you have civil

1 litigation, you would also not be allowed to talk
2 to the judge except in the hearing room with all
3 the parties present.

4 **WITNESS:** And I'd have to pay for a lawyer.
5 And this is what's known as lawyer-legislator
6 organized.

7 **MS. EDWARDS:** Well, sir, what I'm trying to
8 say is, if you've got issues, we would be happy to
9 talk to you about them. We do have our Consumer
10 Services Division here, and we'll be available
11 after the hearing. But I did want to address your
12 comment while I could.

13 **WITNESS:** I already talked to all these people
14 that I could, and they have essentially told me
15 that nobody would foot the bill on this thing.
16 This has been going on since 1979.

17 **MS. EDWARDS:** I'll have to talk to you
18 afterwards. I'm not sure what you're talking about
19 in terms of 1979. Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 **WITNESS:** Well, perhaps -- and this is why I
21 decided to run for this job. Now, the PSC, the
22 lawyers, and all of this can do what they want
23 about this. And they can ignore my testimony at
24 their own political peril, because the houses are
25 there -- 31 may not be the exact number, but I want

1 them fixed. Thank you. Any questions?

2 [Laughter]

3 **MR. BURGESS:** Madam Chairman, I do not have a
4 question of Mr. Brown. However, I would tell you
5 that if you will come talk with me after this
6 proceeding is over, I'll be happy to discuss the
7 power outage in your area, and I think we can
8 probably be of some assistance to you.

9 **WITNESS:** Well, Thank you.

10 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Just a minute. Ms.
11 Edwards, do you have any questions?

12 **MS. EDWARDS:** No, sir, other -- no, ma'am.
13 No, Madam Chair, other than I would extend the same
14 offer again. We are here and we would be happy to
15 talk to you about the outage situation you've
16 experienced.

17 **WITNESS:** Okay, I'll be glad to talk to
18 someone about it.

19 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** And -- just a minute.

20 **WITNESS:** Oh, I'm sorry.

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners, do you have
22 any questions?

23 [No response]

24 **EXAMINATION**

25 **BY CHAIRMAN FLEMING:**

1 **Q** I would like to ask one question. Did you contact the
2 Office of Regulatory Staff, which is this group
3 [indicating]?

4 **A** I don't -- I talked to somebody up there, and the first
5 thing he told me, as soon as I started talking to him,
6 he says, "I'm a security officer."

7 [Laughter]

8 The first thing. I asked him, "What do you do
9 besides this," because I talked to a lot of dual-usage
10 people, and I'll be talking to somebody who will tell
11 me, "I'm a doorman," and what he really is is a security
12 officer. And anytime I talk with one of them, I know
13 that I've got to fish about something.

14 **Q** Well, we have no security officers --

15 **A** But I don't know about the officer -- I don't know if
16 I've been talking to the regulatory office, I don't.

17 **Q** All right.

18 **A** But I've got a file on it, and I'm looking for it. If I
19 find it, I'll correct that.

20 **Q** Well, that would be good, because that's the group to
21 contact if you have a complaint.

22 **A** Okay. Well, thank you so much.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you for being here.

24 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you, sir.

25 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

1 **MR. MELCHERS:** The next witness is Melanie
2 Folmar. Do I have that last name right?

3 **MS. FOLMAR:** Yes, but I decline to speak
4 tonight. Thank you.

5 **MR. MELCHERS:** Okay. Thank you, ma'am. The
6 next witness is Adrian Kwist, K-w-i-s-t.

7 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

8 THEREUPON came,

9 **A D R I A N K W I S T ,**
10 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
11 follows:

12 **WITNESS:** Good evening. My name is Adrian
13 Kwist. I live in Summerville. My address is 109
14 Reynolds Road, here in Summerville, 29483.

15 Good evening to all of you. I'll be very
16 brief. I just have a few comments. Some of the
17 comments have already been made. However, I cannot
18 emphasize enough that this is a bad time for
19 everyone due to the economy, and the people without
20 jobs, and those on fixed incomes. By government
21 recommendation, many people have made their homes
22 more energy efficient by replacing windows,
23 weather-stripping, insulation, and buying more
24 energy efficient appliances. Now as a "reward" --
25 quote, unquote -- SCE&G is taking away from what

1 we're trying to save.

2 **VOICE:** That's right.

3 **WITNESS:** Teachers have lost their jobs or had
4 to take furloughs, production workers have to take
5 time off and have their hours cut, not to mention
6 the high unemployment rate. Also, construction
7 workers and small businesses are at an all-time
8 low.

9 I'm not quite sure if SCE&G is doing what
10 they're doing controlled by the government, but I
11 urge you to let the people in Washington know,
12 including the president, or the people in Columbia,
13 what this company is trying to do to the people
14 here in South Carolina or in this -- Dorchester
15 County, because this is an extremely bad time for
16 them to raise our rates.

17 And if all else fails, I recommend that they
18 spread this rate increase out over ten years,
19 rather than 18 months. Thank you. And I'm open
20 for questions.

21 [Laughter]

22 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards.

24 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions, thank you.

25 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Commissioners.

1 [No response]

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** No questions? All right,
3 you may sit down.

4 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

5 **VOICE:** Thank you.

6 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you, sir.

7 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

8 **MR. MELCHERS:** Michael Johnson is the next
9 witness. Michael Johnson?

10 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

11 THEREUPON came,

12 **M I C H A E L J O H N S O N ,**

13 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
14 follows:

15 **WITNESS:** My name is Michael Johnson. I live
16 at 5507 Cainwood Drive, in North Charleston, 29420.

17 I have a couple of basic questions here, or
18 statements. Why is it in 2010 when you've got
19 basically 25 to 50 of everything -- restaurants,
20 grocery stores, gas stations, banks -- all you have
21 is one SCE&G?

22 **VOICE:** Yeah.

23 [Applause]

24 **WITNESS:** I mean, if it's a monopoly, why does
25 it always have to go back to the consumer to

1 operate? Why don't it look at itself internally,
2 because I've been an old Charlestonian, have looked
3 at these like pickup trucks, utility trucks, and
4 everything that SCE&G uses, and they don't have
5 anything on the road that's over two years old.

6 **VOICE:** You know it.

7 **WITNESS:** So, I mean, I don't know of any
8 company out there that can put new products or new
9 trucks for people to work out of, basically every
10 year, new. It's got to be coming out of some kind
11 of cost structure.

12 The other thing is, there's a plant at 2200
13 Hagood Road. It's off of Old Kingstree Extension.
14 It says it produces 97,750 kilowatt-hours of
15 electricity, but I don't think it's been used in
16 four or five years. Does anybody know? Because
17 these are the kind of costs that stay there year
18 after year, that the consumer's picking up. And
19 over the years when I pick up the paper, I see that
20 these people go back year after year, 2 percent, 1
21 percent, 4 percent, 3 percent increases, and they
22 always get approved. Why can't the people in South
23 Carolina, or SCE&G customers just buy it off the
24 grid? Why can't they go home and go on the
25 Internet and get electricity from wherever they

1 want? And the thing is, there's a guy in North
2 Carolina that runs 29 coal-fired power plants and
3 he's got some of the lowest rates in these two or
4 three states, Georgia, South Carolina, and North
5 Carolina. If you can't get the rates down, why
6 don't you sell it to him? I mean, you got to get
7 past government, lawyers, lobbyists, and coming out
8 to the consumer every time you want a buck. I
9 mean, at some point in time, you'll be like the
10 Postal Service, ain't going to work no more.

11 **VOICE:** Yeah.

12 **WITNESS:** I mean, it just ain't going to work
13 no more. You go \$.02, \$.06, \$.08, right on up to
14 \$.44 for a stamp, but then they're going to go to
15 the UPS Store or FedEx or somewhere to move a
16 letter, or something. And what I'm saying is that
17 these guys here, I mean, are basically cronies of
18 SCE&G. I mean, and all they do is wanting to pass
19 something through to get some more money. There's
20 more equipment that SCE&G owns that's laying around
21 that probably could power hundreds of thousands of
22 homes, that's not even being used. I see it all
23 the time. You go down there on Leeds Avenue,
24 sitting right there.

25 And my last thing is, if it is a monopoly, in

1 just simple economics, the more the customers get,
2 the cost should come down. But in these people's
3 approach and because it's just one SCE&G, the more
4 customers you get, the more places you can get some
5 money out. So, where does it end at? When
6 everybody's broke? Or this guy back here at \$780 a
7 month, that's paying \$1,400 for an electric bill?
8 Come on, man, get real. It's 2010. And change
9 needs to be made. Needs to be a new way of doing
10 things. Thank you.

11 **VOICE:** Thank you.

12 **VOICE:** Thank you.

13 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

14 **VOICE:** Thank you.

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Johnson, just a minute,
16 and let's see if there are any questions. Mr.
17 Burgess?

18 **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions of Mr.
19 Johnson.

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Ms. Edwards.

21 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

23 [No response]

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.

25 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

1 **MR. MELCHERS:** Ethel Thomas is the next
2 witness. Ethel Thomas.

3 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

4 THEREUPON came,

5 **E T H E L T H O M A S ,**
6 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
7 follows:

8 **WITNESS:** Ethel Thomas. My address is 205
9 Aulds Lane, Summerville, South Carolina 29483.

10 I come out tonight because my light bill's ran
11 \$300 every month. I have no heating, no air
12 conditioning, and I'm disabled. That's it.

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Mr. Burgess?

14 **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions of Ms.
15 Thomas.

16 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards?

17 **MS. EDWARDS:** Madam Chair, if I may just ask
18 one question.

19 **CROSS EXAMINATION**

20 **BY MS. EDWARDS:**

21 **Q** I'm sorry, could you give your full address again? I
22 just didn't quite catch it.

23 **A** 205 Aulds Lane, Summerville, South Carolina 29483.

24 **MS. EDWARDS:** Thank you, very much.

25 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. Commissioners?

[No response]

EXAMINATION

BY CHAIRMAN FLEMING:

Q I just wanted to clarify. You said you had no heat or air conditioning, and your bill is \$300?

A \$300-some every month.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. MELCHERS: Joan or Joanne Brown?

[Witness sworn/affirmed]

THEREUPON came,

J O A N N E B R O W N ,

who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as follows:

WITNESS: My name is Reverend Joanna Brown, and my address is 931 West Second North Street here in Summerville. And my ZIP code is 29483.

Madam Chair, I'm here today not just to represent myself, but to be a representative of what's going on in our churches. We have handed out, subsidized by giving money to people whose lights were being turned off because the rate was up so high. There was a senior citizen, she was 92 years old, and her light bill was being \$170-some. She doesn't use the air, or anything but heat in

1 the summer. Don't use a lot of heat, but that bill
2 was so high that the church has had to come in and
3 subsidize the electric bills.

4 I'm also here to represent those people who
5 are single-parenting, who are working two jobs just
6 to survive, coming to the church, looking for food
7 -- we have a food bank -- not being able to pay
8 their electric bill, summoning the churches in this
9 area, in Summerville, to ask to get their electric
10 bill paid. I've had to take people -- I'm a
11 community pastor. I live in the community of West
12 Second North Street, and I've had to take people to
13 different agencies just in order for them to get
14 help with their electric bills.

15 I want to say that I am one of SCE&G's White
16 Cross members. I'm on oxygen. I have a sleep ap.
17 machine. I have an nebulizer. And I can
18 understand, but I went today and paid a \$477 bill.
19 My house is well protected. It's been -- we've
20 agreed with every regulation that the city would
21 have. And I just feel that this is putting a
22 burden on the people. And I think that the
23 electric company, all that we have to pay them,
24 that they ought to look at this time and understand
25 that this is not the time to raise the rates on the

1 people who we supply their salaries.

2 My concern, too, is, if SCE&G -- if this is
3 their pattern, or your pattern of doing things, why
4 can't we get another electric company, so that we
5 can have a choice? We can have something that we
6 can choose from, that will comfort us. I hate to
7 see a member in their house with children, with no
8 electricity, and believe me that's going on. So
9 that's why I'm here today, that SCE&G we hope that
10 you will look at this, concerned about your people
11 as we have been with you for years and years, and
12 understand that right now we are doubly strapped.
13 We are bent over with prices when people are losing
14 jobs and homes, and we're going up on an electric
15 bill? What timing is this? What kind of timing is
16 this?

17 And I'd just like to say to you -- not only to
18 the Commission, Madam Chair -- please look at this
19 not just as a piece of paper with figures on it,
20 but I've come with people with faces on my heart
21 today. Look at the faces of the people. Our
22 government's supposed to be for the people, and by
23 the people, and we need help. We need. Madam
24 Chair, I suggest and say that I oppose an increase
25 on our electricity, and I ask you as a board of

Commissioners that you too will stand behind your people and do what is right for us. I oppose it to the very highest. Are there any questions?

VOICE: Whoo.

[Applause]

MR. BURGESS: No questions, Madam Chair.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. Ms. Edwards?

MS. EDWARDS: No questions, thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners?

[No response]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: No questions. Reverend Brown, thank you so much.

WITNESS: Thank you.

MR. MELCHERS: Thank you, ma'am.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. MELCHERS: John Mott is the next witness.
John Mott?

[Witness sworn/affirmed]

THEREUPON came,

J O H N M O T T ,

who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as follows:

WITNESS: Hello. My name is John Mott. I reside at 244 Luden Drive, Apartment B.

This is a little spur of the moment. I

1 apologize for any trouble that asking that that
2 [indicating] be placed there may have caused, and
3 may cause.

4 I would like to point out, I don't use a lot
5 of electricity. I try to stick to under 400
6 kilowatts in a month. If I go over that 400
7 kilowatts, I get charged more, even for, I'd say, a
8 period of six months, after that, if I -- it seems
9 a little bit off to me.

10 I would like to point -- I would also like for
11 a copy of this Friends of the Earth flyer that was
12 handed out at the door be entered into the record.
13 I'm not sure what the procedure for that would be.
14 But I have a few things that are addressed by it
15 that I would like to address.

16 I would like to point out that the federal
17 government reneged on their original placement for
18 long-term storage of nuclear waste. Specifically,
19 the Yucca Mountain Site. I would like to point out
20 that nuclear power -- it's a little bit scary, I
21 understand, because of the radioactivity. However,
22 I would like to point out that the coal plants
23 produce more -- release more radioactivity than a
24 nuclear plant does, into the atmosphere, due to
25 radio nuclei being in the coal is burned.

1 Let's see, now. I would like to point out
2 that while I am kind of against these rate
3 increases, the higher cost of installing a nuclear
4 reactor -- two nuclear reactors will, should, in
5 the long term pay off with lower rates, and that
6 these rates should be lowered once these costs are
7 -- if these costs -- increases are passed, that the
8 rates should be lowered once power is being
9 produced by these new sources, which is what I
10 believe these rates are being increased to pay for
11 -- if I'm not mistaken. I may be mistaken.

12 Let's see, now. I would like to point out
13 that reductions in energy use cannot cover all of
14 the need for generation, and that I'm certain --
15 forgive me, I'm nervous.

16 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** That's okay, take your
17 time. You're doing fine.

18 **WITNESS:** I'd like to point out that certain
19 energy reduction techniques do have unintended
20 consequences, such as the fluorescent lights, which
21 give me headaches, which is why I was wearing my
22 hat.

23 All right. What else was I going to say? I
24 believe that addresses all the points that I had to
25 make. Oh, I would also like to address the fact

1 that one of the reasons -- not the fact -- my
2 opinion that part of the reason a new nuclear plant
3 has not been built in such a long time is that the
4 government has road-blocked in various ways,
5 through regulation, the building of new plants,
6 which is why it is necessary for the government to
7 secure the loan, to show the government's goodwill
8 towards building new nuclear plants.

9 And, okay, that covers all my notes that I've
10 made. Any questions?

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Burgess?

12 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions of Mr. Mott.

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards.

14 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions, thank you.

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Commissioners?

16 [No response]

17 **EXAMINATION**

18 **BY CHAIRMAN FLEMING:**

19 **Q** I wanted just to clarify. You said if you use over a
20 certain amount of electricity, 400 kilowatts, you are
21 charged more per kilowatt?

22 **A** That is correct.

23 **VOICE:** That's --

24 **VOICE:** That's --

25 **VOICE:** -- right.

1 **VOICE:** --right, yes.

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Just wanted to clarify.

3 **VOICE:** They want to be sure they get --

4 **WITNESS:** And it's very much less than my
5 neighbors use. I use very much less power.

6 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. And you have a
7 sheet from the Friends of the Earth that you would
8 like to enter into the evidence of the case?

9 **WITNESS:** Yes. However, my copy, I've written
10 notes on.

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Well, would you like --

12 **WITNESS:** If somebody has a clean --

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** -- to ask Mr. Clements if
14 he has a clean copy?

15 **WITNESS:** Does somebody have a spare sheet?

16 **VOICE:** I have one [indicating].

17 **WITNESS:** Thank you [indicating].

18 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right, that will be
19 entered into the evidence of the case as Hearing
20 Exhibit No. 2.

21 **WITNESS:** I would like to also note that I am
22 not a member of Friends of the Earth.

23 [Laughter]

24 **WITNESS:** That is the name of the
25 organization, right? However, I do believe in the

1 environment, that we need to take care of the
2 environment better, and that's sort of why we need
3 the necessary evil of nuclear energy, to get us
4 along until we can get more renewable sources.

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Well, you and
6 Mr. Clements may have an interesting conversation.
7 He opposes nuclear power, is the reason I say that.

8 **WITNESS:** It has its drawbacks. Hopefully we
9 can get fusion soon.

10 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you, Mr. Mott.

11 [WHEREUPON, Hearing Exhibit No. 2 was
12 marked and received in evidence.]

13 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

14 **MR. MELCHERS:** The next witness is Daniel --
15 B-u-e-r-g-e -- Buerge? Help me out.

16 **MR. BUERGE:** Buerge.

17 **MR. MELCHERS:** Buerge, thanks.

18 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

19 THEREUPON came,

20 **D A N I E L B U E R G E ,**

21 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
22 follows:

23 **WITNESS:** My name is Daniel Buerge. I live
24 here in Summerville at 106 Senrab Boulevard, 29483.
25 I've been a customer of South Carolina Electric &

1 Gas Company for the last 11 years. I have --

2 **VOICE:** Can't hear you.

3 **VOICE:** Speak more into the mike.

4 **WITNESS:** I have a -- my house is pretty new,
5 ten years old. I keep up with the times, try to be
6 energy efficient, buy new appliances, buy new air
7 conditioners and stuff, to keep up with
8 electricity, but I can't keep up with them --

9 [Laughter]

10 **WITNESS:** -- because their rates go up before
11 I get my new stuff so I can keep up and keep my
12 bills lower. That's one thing.

13 And one thing I wanted to say also is these
14 digital readers, I think these companies know
15 exactly what they're doing. They know exactly, it
16 happens in California. They check our, so to
17 speak, our digital readings, you have it in line.
18 You know when we use electricity when it go high,
19 when it go up in the price, so they can read all
20 those people who use electricity at that time, they
21 know exactly who uses and who doesn't, so they can
22 hike the price or go down the price. We have no
23 chance to really go with that, and I'm just getting
24 tired of it. I really oppose the 10 percent
25 increase. I mean, and I see they waste money every

1 day. I mean, there are three people to put in my
2 digital electrical meter, I don't know --

3 [Laughter]

4 **WITNESS:** -- if that's going toward the 10
5 percent price increase in my electricity, what I
6 use of it, I don't know. I don't work like that.
7 Private industry doesn't work -- if I would work
8 like that, my company would be out of business. I
9 mean, you see them every day, three or four people
10 cutting trees down on my side, on the Main Street
11 and Central Avenue. Four people cutting trees,
12 every year. I don't know why. I think we need to
13 put them in the ground, too, so it wouldn't cost us
14 money every year, wouldn't it? But I don't know.
15 Every year, the same. Every year, the same. A
16 little storm comes, we're out of electricity. Have
17 to fix it again. Making money again over there.

18 [Laughter]

19 **WITNESS:** I don't get it. Put these cables in
20 ground, create jobs. It's a bad time. We don't
21 have jobs. That's all I have to say. I oppose the
22 whole thing. Thank you.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. Mr. Burgess?

24 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

25 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards?

1 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Just a minute.

3 **WITNESS:** Oh, I'm sorry.

4 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** I don't know that there
5 will be any, but let's wait and see.

6 Commissioners? Any questions?

7 [No response]

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** No? All right. Now you
9 may sit down.

10 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you, sir.

11 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

12 **MR. MELCHERS:** Hans Rogenmoser?

13 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

14 THEREUPON came,

15 **H A N S R O G E N M O S E R ,**

16 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
17 follows:

18 **WITNESS:** Good evening. My name is Hans
19 Rogenmoser. I live at 2140 Hummingbird Lane, in
20 Summerville. And I appreciate the Commission
21 listening to the people out there.

22 My problem is, is this rate increase -- I
23 mean, in this economy when a lot of people are out
24 of work, including myself -- I've been out of work
25 for two years as an industrial engineering

1 technician. Our industry is going somewhere. The
2 plants are closing down. People are out of work.
3 They are on fixed incomes, have no income. I'm
4 between Social Security and -- I'm too young to
5 draw Social Security, too old to get a job.

6 [Laughter]

7 **WITNESS:** Because the industry is now in
8 China, that's another problem, but I feel companies
9 like SCE&G, they are totally out of touch with the
10 times.

11 **VOICE:** They are.

12 **WITNESS:** When inflation is basically less
13 than 1 percent, they're going up 10 percent and
14 other stuff, of course, is going up, and how do you
15 think people are going to pay for this? I mean,
16 the timing has already been mentioned before by
17 other people, how bad the timing is. Why not wait
18 for something better, and then -- that brings me to
19 something else. What about renewable energy? You
20 know, why not look at that, for a change?
21 Primarily, solar energy and wind energy.

22 And that's my beef, they're not looking at
23 that and because they're already stuck in the
24 system they have, but we have to look at
25 alternative -- renewable energy, as well,

1 alternative energy.

2 But, yes, but still I think they're out of
3 touch, and how do you expect people to pay? I'm
4 almost -- from all my savings and all that, and
5 I've got, I guess, two more years to get into
6 Social Security, if it's still going to be there.
7 And somebody's going to put me out in the street,
8 either the electric company or whoever else is
9 going to raise the rates exorbitantly, you know.
10 Here we are. That's all I have to say.

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Thank you. Mr.
12 Burgess?

13 **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions of this
14 witness.

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards?

16 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions, thank you.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

18 [No response]

19 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right, you may sit
20 down. Thank you.

21 **WITNESS:** Thanks again for listening to the
22 middle-class people and poor people.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you, for being here.

24 **VOICE:** Thank you, guy.

25 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you, sir.

1 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

2 MR. MELCHERS: William Hanna?

3 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

4 THEREUPON came,

5 W I L L I A M H A N N A ,

6 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
7 follows:

8 WITNESS: Madam Chair and Commissioners, my
9 name is William Hanna. I reside at 214 Elmwood
10 Avenue, in Ladson.

11 I want to say that I'm retired military. I'm
12 100 percent service-connected disabled. I did want
13 to stress that, because I'm unable to work. I'm on
14 a fixed income, and I just want to make this as a
15 matter of record. My wife and I did not receive a
16 cost-of-living adjustment from the military this
17 year. We didn't receive a cost-of-living
18 adjustment from the Social Security that we draw,
19 and we won't for three years, as I understand. So
20 our cost of living is frozen.

21 I can't work to pay a higher utility bill. So
22 we have to adjust, and we have to live by a budget.
23 What I'd like to say tonight is perhaps with the
24 economy the way it is, with South Carolina being
25 number four in the nation with the highest

1 unemployment rate, with people like my son who was
2 forced to move in with us and has been with us for
3 14 months because his company went bankrupt and
4 could no longer stay in business -- he's in the
5 residential electrical business and, as you know,
6 the housing tanked, so he can't find employment
7 without moving out of the State. He can't afford
8 to stay in his apartment, so he's living with us.
9 But here's the one thing that I would like to leave
10 with you: If we're forced to do without a cost-of-
11 living adjustment for three years --

12 **VOICE:** Thank you.

13 **WITNESS:** -- and if we can't work -- because
14 if I work, then I lose my veteran's benefits, and
15 I'm not able to work physically, and VA is the one
16 that medically retired me from the military. So if
17 we have to live within our budget, perhaps SCE&G
18 would do much better at this time to wait three
19 years like we have to do, and then come before you
20 and ask for a rate increase. Thank you.

21 **VOICE:** Thank you. Thank you.

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Burgess?

23 **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions of Mr.
24 Hanna.

25 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards?

1 MS. EDWARDS: No questions.

2 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners?

3 [No response]

4 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you.

5 MR. MELCHERS: Thank you, sir.

6 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

7 MR. MELCHERS: Barbara Lyles?

8 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

9 THEREUPON came,

10 B A R B A R A L Y L E S ,

11 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
12 follows:

13 WITNESS: My name is Barbara Lyles. I reside
14 at 126 Hummingbird Avenue, Ladson, South Carolina
15 29456. And I would like to say good evening to
16 everybody.

17 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Good evening.

18 WITNESS: In the past, I wouldn't be at a
19 meeting like this, because I might miss my favorite
20 TV show. However, when I became a senior citizen
21 and on fixed income, I take a magnifying glass and
22 go over all my bills. I am opposed to SCE&G
23 getting a rate hike --

24 VOICE: Speak into the mike.

25 VOICE: Speak into the mike, please.

1 **WITNESS:** -- and the reason for this is, when
2 you're on a fixed income, your money is not going
3 to go up with the rate hikes or anything. And I
4 hope that we don't have to wait for another
5 stimulus package to help us pay our electric bill.
6 That's all I have to say.

7 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. Mr. Burgess?

8 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions for Ms. Lyles.

9 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards?

10 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions. Thank you, Madam
11 Chairman.

12 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

13 [No response]

14 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You may sit
15 down. Thank you.

16 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you, ma'am.

17 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

18 **MR. MELCHERS:** Melvin McClellan is the next
19 witness. The next witness after that will be
20 Claudette Stanford, if you want to be ready to come
21 up after this one. Melvin McClellan.

22 **VOICE:** He's outside the door.

23 **MR. MELCHERS:** Can he hear us?

24 [Brief pause]

25 **MR. MELCHERS:** Ms. Stanford, if you'd like to

1 come up now, that would be fine.

2 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

3 THEREUPON came,

4 **C L A U D E T T E S T A N F O R D ,**

5 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
6 follows:

7 **WITNESS:** My name is Claudette Stanford. I
8 live at 9635 Dusty Lane, in Ladson. And I want to
9 say thank you for everybody who is here,
10 representatives. And I do thank SCE&G for the
11 times that maybe, you know, the lights went out or
12 something happened and they had to come. I do
13 appreciate that.

14 But, I also want to just say a little bit
15 about the electric bill. I was like the lady while
16 ago that, you know, maybe I wouldn't come to
17 something like this in the past, but I never
18 thought I'd see myself in the shape that I am. I'm
19 not working right now. I have held good jobs. I
20 tried to work for the school, and enjoyed that.
21 But now if you don't work ten classes, then you
22 don't get to substitute, and they're not giving the
23 classes, so there's a lot of cuts going on. And
24 so, you know, I've tried to help myself. I got low
25 on food, I found a way to go get it. My son lives

1 with me and he's disabled, and so we help one
2 another. I kind of look after him and he tries to
3 help take care of other things for me.

4 But when I look at the bills and I know I
5 can't hardly pay, it's hard. It makes you feel
6 kind of rough. You know, but you got to help
7 yourself. That's what I'm trying to do. And I did
8 have to go get some help to pay my light bill in
9 the past several months, and if they wouldn't have
10 helped me I don't know what I would've done. My
11 refrigerator gets low, but it's good to see when
12 you can put groceries back in it again. So maybe
13 they'll consider us; there's a lot of poor people
14 here in South Carolina, a lot that have lost their
15 jobs. And just consider that we need some help at
16 this time. We've lost two years of Social
17 Security.

18 And that's about all I got to say, is, I just
19 appreciate the help that we do get here. That's
20 what we need is more help and more understanding.
21 I'll take any questions.

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay, thank you. Mr.
23 Burgess.

24 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions, Madam Chair.

25 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Ms. Edwards?

1 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions, thank you.

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners? Just a
3 minute, Ms. Stanford. Commissioners.

4 [No response]

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Y'all are going to have to
6 start asking questions so they don't try to get
7 back to their seats so quick.

8 [Laughter]

9 **COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:** Madam Chair.

10 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Yes, all right,
11 Commissioner Whitfield.

12 **COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:** I do have one.

13 **EXAMINATION**

14 **BY COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:**

15 **Q** Ms. Stanford, how many times did you say you've received
16 help? Was that just once, or more than one month?

17 **A** For the electric bill?

18 **Q** Yes, ma'am.

19 **A** It was the first time I had ever applied for and got
20 help.

21 **Q** Okay, thank you.

22 **A** Help for that bill.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right, you may sit down
24 now. Thank you for being here.

25 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

1 **MR. MELCHERS:** Is Melvin McClellan available?
2 Melvin McClellan?

3 **VOICE:** He left.

4 **MR. MELCHERS:** He left? Thank you. David
5 Wilkinson? David Wilkinson?

6 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

7 THEREUPON came,

8 **D A V I D W I L K I N S O N ,**
9 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
10 follows:

11 **WITNESS:** My name is David Wilkinson. I live
12 at 701 Navajo Boulevard, Summerville, South
13 Carolina 29483-9248.

14 I'm 81 years old, and I expect to live another
15 20 years. In that regard, electricity is always an
16 important factor, not only for heat but for air
17 conditioning as well. My electric bills over the
18 years have continuously risen, and that's
19 understandable. The more people you have to
20 service, the more energy you have to have.
21 However, the question I always see, is every time
22 we have a rate increase, are we being properly
23 served in giving the electric company what they
24 want.

25 I notice many times that you always cut back

1 on their request, but now this is probably the
2 biggest request we've seen in years. And the
3 question is, do they really need it? Should they
4 provide more of their money versus asking us to pay
5 more in the fashion to get the energy that is
6 needed or what they're requesting to have done.

7 I'm on a fixed income. Consequently, like
8 everybody else, I have to care how I spend it.
9 However, I'm probably in better shape than a lot of
10 people, and I probably don't have the problems that
11 many of them have. So that's basically what I have
12 to say.

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right, thank you. Mr.
14 Burgess.

15 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions of Mr. Wilkinson.

16 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards?

17 **MS. EDWARDS:** Madam Chair, I do have one
18 question.

19 **CROSS EXAMINATION**

20 **BY MS. EDWARDS:**

21 **Q** I'm sorry, I could not quite catch your address, sir.

22 **A** 701 Navajo Boulevard, Summerville.

23 **MS. EDWARDS:** Thank you, sir.

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Commissioners?
25 Commissioner Wright.

EXAMINATION**BY COMMISSIONER WRIGHT:****Q** Did you say you were 81 years old?**A** 81.**Q** Wow.**A** I just wanted to give you some perspective, if not my age --**Q** I mean, you look wonderful. Butch just turned 40.

[Laughter]

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Thank you. You may sit down.

[WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

MR. MELCHERS: Yvonne Bradley. Yvonne Bradley?

[Witness sworn/affirmed]

THEREUPON came,

Y V O N N E B R A D L E Y ,

who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as follows:

WITNESS: Good evening. My name is Yvonne Bradley. I reside at 1330 Spiers Landing Road, Cross, South Carolina 29436.

As some of the others have already mentioned, I too am on a fixed income. I know exactly every month what I'm going to bring home. I also know,

1 on a regular basis, what my utility bill is going
2 to be. I try to budget myself so that I can
3 accommodate that expense. Recently, I have not
4 been able to figure out what happened between the
5 months of December and March.

6 **VOICE:** Me neither.

7 **WITNESS:** I was told that we had an extremely
8 cold winter. Well, I subsidize my heat by using
9 kerosene and electric heaters, all Underwriter
10 Laboratory tested, everything except the kerosene.
11 So at the same time when I'm subsidizing what I use
12 and I still have a high utility bill, that still
13 concerns me. My local councilman called in SCE&G
14 representatives from the Walterboro office. Mr.
15 Clarence Wright, who was here earlier, came out and
16 spoke with us. Berkeley Electric Co-op was also in
17 attendance. They also came out and told us some of
18 the things that we could do to make our homes more
19 energy efficient. And as was already stated, some
20 of our clients -- or, customers -- residents
21 already do those things but still see an increase
22 in their utility bill. So therefore the only thing
23 we could surmise was that the utility companies
24 were giving us more of a rate increase than we are
25 accustomed to.

1 I remind you that over the years we've seen
2 the increase, and like some others I would not be
3 here either, but a 10 percent -- excuse me -- 9.5
4 at one point, at one time, is just a little bit too
5 steep. I would not mind paying an increase if I
6 got better service. If the service would improve,
7 then I would have not much of a concern. But if my
8 service is disrupted on a daily basis, every
9 evening I get home I have to reset clocks, 4 and 5
10 o'clock --

11 VOICE: Yeah.

12 VOICE: Yeah.

13 WITNESS: -- in the morning, the utility goes
14 out, that's not a little thing. If there was an
15 accident on the road that does not affect what I
16 thought was my breaker or my box, I didn't think my
17 service should be interrupted. Lo and behold, my
18 service is interrupted. If there's a slight storm,
19 just like we had just this past week -- we had the
20 wind over the weekend -- the utilities, the lights
21 went out. If the services were improved, I
22 wouldn't have such a struggle to go along with the
23 rate increase. But if my services are not getting
24 any better, but my increase in the bill is always
25 going up, then I do have cause for concern. As

1 with some of the others that have already stated,
2 if we don't do anything now, we're coming out to
3 let you all know that at this point in time our
4 services are not getting any better, neither is the
5 economy. So therefore, we, as some of the others
6 here, oppose this rate increase.

7 Nuclear reactors, a lot of us are not familiar
8 with the causes and some of the concerns associated
9 with nuclear reactors. Having worked at the Oak
10 Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee,
11 for several years, I have some information or some
12 knowledge of nuclear reactors. It's not one of my
13 favorite things, but I can see the concern or I can
14 also see the need for alternative sources. Would I
15 have selected nuclear reactors? Probably not. But
16 I would go along with that.

17 So having voiced my concern about the increase
18 in the utility bills and not an increase in the
19 service that is provided, I definitely oppose and
20 ask that you do the same thing to the rate increase
21 that SCE&G is asking. Thank you.

22 [Applause]

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you, Ms. Bradley.
24 Mr. Burgess?

25 **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards.

2 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions, thank you.

3 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners. Yes,
4 Commissioner Howard.

5 **EXAMINATION**

6 **BY VICE CHAIRMAN HOWARD:**

7 **Q** Ms. Bradley, I want to talk about the reliability of
8 your electric service. Do you know what causes the
9 outages? Do they tell you a cause?

10 **A** The strangest thing was, according to Mr. Wright, it was
11 the trees. He assured me that he would -- or that the
12 local company in Holly Hill would come and trim the
13 trees that hit the wires. Well, he also told me to be
14 patient because Holly Hill to Cross is a good 25 or 30
15 miles. And in that distance, not only do they serve me
16 but they serve the other residents, so I just have to
17 wait my turn.

18 **VICE CHAIRMAN HOWARD:** Okay. Thank you, very
19 much.

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Any other questions?

21 [No response]

22 **EXAMINATION**

23 **BY CHAIRMAN FLEMING:**

24 **Q** I wanted to find out, you said your lights go off on a
25 regular basis?

1 **A** Almost daily.

2 **Q** Almost daily.

3 **A** For whatever reason. I can't explain to you why it goes
4 out. Even this morning, 1:30 this morning the lights
5 went out. I had to reset the clock.

6 **Q** All right. And have you -- have they been out to -- do
7 they have to come out to --

8 **A** No, ma'am.

9 **Q** They just go off, and on?

10 **A** Yes, ma'am. There's also a record of every time you
11 call SCE&G, anytime there's a problem. They can tell
12 how many times you've called. And according to what I
13 was told by Mr. Wright, my number shows up quite
14 frequently as far as a problem, because we do call quite
15 frequently, as the lights go out.

16 **Q** Have you ever called the Office of Regulatory Staff?

17 **A** No, ma'am, I haven't.

18 **Q** All right. You might want to speak to Ms. Edwards
19 afterwards.

20 **A** Okay.

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right, thank you.

22 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

23 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Matthew Brown.

25 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

1 THEREUPON came,

2 M A T T H E W B R O W N ,

3 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
4 follows:

5 WITNESS: Good afternoon.

6 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Good afternoon.

7 WITNESS: My name is Matthew Brown. I live at
8 201 Echo Drive, in the town of Knightsville. And
9 my light bill is, I will say, more than I can stand
10 right now, because I'm on a fixed income myself,
11 and I'm the only one working at my house, and to
12 have you all hiking up the rent, I said -- I would
13 have said, "Well, I don't think you all should do
14 that." You know, I mean, I know everybody got to
15 have electricity, but I think you really should
16 reconsider hiking up this bill, because this is
17 tough times for a lot of people, and a lot of
18 people is hurting during this time. That's all
19 I've got to say.

20 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Mr. Burgess?

21 MR. BURGESS: We have no questions of Mr.
22 Brown.

23 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Ms. Edwards?

24 <

25 <

CROSS EXAMINATION**BY MS. EDWARDS:**

Q Mr. Brown, could you repeat your address for me? I didn't quite catch it.

A Okay. My address is 201 Echo Drive.

Q Echo Drive, like "echo"?

A Yes, ma'am, E-c-h-o.

Q Okay.

A Yes, ma'am.

MS. EDWARDS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right. Commissioners?

[No response]

EXAMINATION**BY CHAIRMAN FLEMING:**

Q Have you had any issues with your service?

A Yes, ma'am. During the past, when the storm came up here, I want to say about the last part of last year, we have a big old oak tree in the yard, and a limb was sitting on -- the limb was sitting on the wire itself. And then, what it did, it sparked from the top of the house and then it knock all the power out. And then we called SCE&G. They came out. It happened late at night, and they came out, and they restored the electricity at the house. Then they came back out later on, and they trimmed the limb during that time, but now

1 I notice that another limb is about to sit on top of
2 that wire, and I was trying to get them to come back to
3 trim the limb. In fact, the guy said the last time when
4 he was out there, said they was going to come back and
5 trim that limb on that tree, but they ain't never came
6 back to do it.

7 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Okay. Thank you. You may
8 sit down.

9 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

10 MR. MELCHERS: Roberta Prioleau?

11 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

12 THEREUPON came,

13 R O B E R T A P R I O L E A U ,
14 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
15 follows:

16 WITNESS: My name is Roberta L. Prioleau. I
17 reside at 335 Henrietta Road, Cross, South
18 Carolina.

19 I just have a few comments. Everybody else
20 has basically took care of everything. People's
21 going on the way the economy is, and it actually is
22 a bad time. And I know, like they were talking
23 about the nuclear reaction -- the nuclear project
24 that they're working on. The lady that spoke
25 earlier said she know a little bit about it, but

1 does anybody know the long-term effect of that
2 nuclear on us, as employees -- as people? You
3 don't know this. The long-term effect of nuclear
4 is not a very good thing, from what I was told.

5 And other thing is, what type of program do
6 you all have to assist your SCE&G customer, other
7 than -- well, you got your -- you can do the
8 discount monthly bill. Other than that, what else
9 do y'all have to offer your employees?

10 **VOICE:** Customers.

11 **WITNESS:** Customers.

12 **MR. BURGESS:** Ma'am, I'll be happy to answer
13 those questions for you after the hearing.

14 **VOICE:** Well, we would all like to know.

15 **WITNESS:** Okay. Well, that's all.

16 **VOICE:** What's the question?

17 **WITNESS:** You want me to repeat the question?
18 The question is, what is the long-term effect of
19 the nuclear reactors on us as people.

20 **VOICE:** And what other programs does SCE&G --

21 **WITNESS:** And what are the programs that SCE&G
22 have to offer us? I know like co-op has a whole
23 lot of programs to assist their customer. What
24 does SCE&G have to offer us, as customers, other
25 than the rate increase? Any questions?

1 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions, Madam Chairman.

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Ms. Edwards?

3 **MS. EDWARDS:** No, Madam Chair, but I would
4 extend the offer, if you have the time, please talk
5 to Chad Campbell or myself. And he's available at
6 the back of the room now, if you don't want to wait
7 until the end of the hearing. I know people might
8 not. But again, I would extend that offer to you.

9 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners.

10 [No response]

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right, thank you.

12 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

13 **MR. MELCHERS:** Folks, we understand that there
14 have been several complaints about the air-
15 conditioning, the temperature, in the room. We
16 apologize about it. However, we understand it is
17 adjusted electronically, and there's nothing that
18 the Commission can do about it.

19 *[Indiscernible vocalizations from*
20 *audience]*

21 **MR. MELCHERS:** We apologize for the
22 inconvenience. We are visitors here, and that's
23 all the information we have. Thank you.

24 Melissa Franks. Ms. Franks.

25 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

1 THEREUPON came,

2 M E L I S S A F R A N K S ,

3 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
4 follows:

5 WITNESS: My name is Melissa Franks. I live
6 at 1605 East Main Street, Dorchester, South
7 Carolina 29437.

8 Madam Chair, Commissioners, we appreciate you
9 all being here to listen to the concerns of the
10 citizens, and even SCE&G being here to listen, as
11 well. I think they really need to hear it.

12 About a year ago, my husband, Carl Franks,
13 sitting right here, he had a really bad four-
14 wheeler accident, and he spent about two months in
15 the hospital. And before the accident, we were
16 both working, so we were able to pay most or all of
17 our bills, but after he had the accident, his
18 company went out of business and I had to quit my
19 job to look after him. And right now, he is
20 getting better but we're living on one disability
21 check. And we're managing to pay most of our
22 bills, but it is hard.

23 And as for myself, I'm kind of used to dealing
24 with a lot of tough things. I've dealt with
25 sickness for a long time, and then his mother also

1 has health problems. And she has been helping us
2 right now, but I don't think that's fair to her.
3 And now that he is getting better, I'm trying to
4 find a job myself, but it is really tough. I've
5 been out looking like every day for the last two
6 weeks, and I go on the Internet, job fairs. And
7 we're just trying to manage on that one income, and
8 I don't believe that one more rate increase on a
9 bill is, you know, going to help us to make ends
10 meet. We're already paying a pretty high mortgage.
11 And I guess like everybody out here, I'm sure
12 things are really tough for a lot of people. And I
13 don't think it would really be fair to the people
14 for there to be a rate increase, the way the
15 economy is right now. And so that's really all I
16 have to say. Thank you.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Franks, just a minute.
18 Let's see if there are questions first.

19 **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions of Ms.
20 Franks.

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards.

22 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

23 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners. Just a
25 minute. Ms. Franks, just a minute. Commissioners?

1 [No response]

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** No questions. All right.

3 Now, you can sit down.

4 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you.

5 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

6 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Violet Skipper? Violet

7 Skipper?

8 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

9 THEREUPON came,

10 **V I O L E T S K I P P E R ,**

11 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
12 follows:

13 **WITNESS:** Good afternoon, Madam Chair and
14 fellow Commissioners. My name is Violet Skipper.
15 I reside at 92 Nightingale Manor, North Charleston,
16 South Carolina. So I reside in the 1st District.

17 And I have a problem with SCE&G asking for
18 another rate increase. I have the bills here
19 [indicating]. They said to bring them for you. My
20 light bill for December was \$190. I was in the
21 house for one week. I was in New York at a film
22 for my niece, and I was in Jamaica at my daughter's
23 wedding for two weeks, so \$190? January light
24 bill, \$248.58. February light bill, \$400. March
25 light bill, \$443. And my bill came for April,

1 April 10th, and that was \$191. We weren't finished
2 with April yet. So I want to know what's going on
3 with SCE&G.

4 I had surgery on my knee. I shouldn't even
5 have been driving. And I drove down to the office
6 to find out, what is going on with my light bill.
7 I have double-pane windows, all my light bulbs are
8 energy efficient, my washer and dryer is energy
9 efficient, my refrigerator is energy efficient. I
10 vacuum underneath my refrigerator, I vacuum the
11 vents in my dryer, I change the lint thing. I've
12 done everything.

13 And I went down there in the rain, and they
14 will take care of it. You know what happened?
15 Somebody called me a month later and tell me
16 they're going to come out and see where am I losing
17 energy. I say you guys are guesstimating my light
18 bill. You guys are not reading the meter. You
19 guys are guesstimating. Okay? Because I've gone
20 out there -- a couple of years ago, my light bill
21 around Christmastime -- they think everybody plugs
22 lights, so even if you don't, you're going to pay?
23 I didn't put up any this year, y'all.

24 [Applause]

25 **WITNESS:** All right? And my light bill is up.

1 I went down and they're going to take care of it --
2 take care of it a month later telling me somebody
3 will come out and tell me what should I do to
4 conserve energy.

5 I picked this up when I went down there
6 [indicating]. Y'all, they're checked. I am alone
7 in the house. I'm not cooking. I'm not washing.
8 Why? And you guys are asking for a raise? I have
9 served the federal government for 23 years. I'm
10 out of work because of an on-the-job injury. I'm
11 not getting any pay. And then I ask, and nobody
12 can give me an answer. I called the Commission,
13 all right, the Public Service Commission? All
14 right, they will get with me. Nobody ever got with
15 me. Tomorrow, this guy is going to come out and
16 tell me what else I need to do to conserve energy.
17 After all of this [indicating]. They're all
18 checked.

19 I live alone in the house. There's people
20 around in my neighborhood with three and four
21 people. I'm alone. Why is my light bill high? I
22 need some answers, because this is ridiculous. I'm
23 a hard-working, honest, taxpaying citizen, and what
24 SCE&G is doing is not right.

25 [Applause]

1 **WITNESS:** They came out -- my meter was
2 corroded. I'm giving you guys the benefit of the
3 doubt. Come change this thing. They came out and
4 replaced it. You know what they said, it had a
5 crack in it but it's still correct. Something is
6 wrong. Because I am not using up \$400 a month in
7 light bill.

8 Last Christmas, my bill was over \$1,000. This
9 is January and to now, and I'm over \$1,500. I'm
10 alone in the house. My kids are grown and gone. I
11 want to know something. That is ridiculous. And I
12 am good and mad. I don't know where my next
13 paycheck is coming from, but you all can't keep
14 giving me these bills, and then when I ask for an
15 answer I'm transferred to Columbia and this other
16 person is calling me, Christine is calling, and
17 you're telling me nothing. I did not use all that
18 light, and there's nobody slipping my electricity,
19 so I need some answers.

20 I went out there a couple of years ago and,
21 you know what I had to do then? I went out and
22 read the meter before the meter man came.

23 [Laughter]

24 **WITNESS:** That's right. I wrote the numbers
25 down, because you guys were making a habit of this

1 thing. All right? And when Christmastime -- when
2 they sent a bill for \$300, no way, because here's
3 my number. You know what? They send me a \$100
4 refund. They're doing the same thing. I want the
5 refund. I'm sorry.

6 **VOICE:** Don't apologize.

7 **WITNESS:** Enough is enough, and too much is a
8 waste. You guys should be giving back. USAA, when
9 they make money, you know what they do? They give
10 some back to the customers. Y'all are like
11 graveyards; take, take, take, take.

12 *[Indiscernible vocalizations from*
13 *audience; applause]*

14 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Burgess, would you like
15 to ask Ms. Skipper some questions?

16 **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions of Ms.
17 Skipper.

18 **WITNESS:** I can answer, and I can wait.
19 Enough is enough. Somebody is going to tell me
20 something.

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards.

22 **MS. EDWARDS:** Madam Chair, may I ask just one
23 or two questions?

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Sure.

25 <

CROSS EXAMINATION**BY MS. EDWARDS:****Q** Can you hear me?**A** Yes, very well.**Q** You said you had tried to call the Commission. Were you --**A** I went down to the SCE&G office, and these are the numbers I called, and here's my bills -- if you care to look at them, because they're identified this is what it was for last year, you know, this year. This is crazy. I am alone. I'm not running the dryer. I'm not cooking. my kids are grown and gone.**MS. EDWARDS:** Madam Chair, if I may ask --**BY MS. EDWARDS:****Q** If you wouldn't mind meeting with Chad and/or I myself -- either Chad right now, are myself after the hearing, I'd like to take a look at your bills.**A** Yeah, they're guesstimating my bill, that's what's happening -- because I caught them in the act already.**CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Skipper, would you like to enter those bills into the evidence of the case?**WITNESS:** Yes, ma'am.**CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** We can make copies, so that you --**WITNESS:** You can have them. And here's one

1 of the letters I got back [indicating].

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.

3 **WITNESS:** You can make copies of that, too,
4 sir [indicating]. And here's the name of the
5 people and here's the letter they addressed to me.
6 And you know what, all that they say is nothing.
7 They told me nothing.

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Are there any
9 objections to that?

10 **WITNESS:** I had a \$1,000 light bill last year.

11 **MR. BURGESS:** Madam Chair, at the outset of
12 the hearing, we had a continuous objection that we
13 made.

14 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Pardon?

15 **MR. BURGESS:** We placed a continuous
16 objection.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. We will enter
18 that into the evidence of the case as composite
19 Exhibit No. 3.

20 **WITNESS:** Thank you, ma'am.

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** If you'll just give them to
22 the court reporter.

23 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

24 **VOICE:** Thank you.

25 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you.

1 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you.

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Are there any --

3 Commissioners, did you all have any questions?

4 [No response]

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.

6 [WHEREUPON, Hearing Exhibit No. 3 was
7 marked and received in evidence.]

8 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

9 **MR. MELCHERS:** Shawna Farris.

10 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

11 THEREUPON came,

12 **S H A W N A F A R R I S ,**

13 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
14 follows:

15 **WITNESS:** My name is Shawna Farris. 7828
16 Spring Creek Road, North Charleston, South
17 Carolina.

18 I'm here for a couple of reasons. Firstly,
19 I'm here because it's beginning to feel like
20 electricity is a luxury for people who can afford
21 it. And I'm saying that from my heart, because
22 I've seen a lot of people who can't afford it, and
23 that's what I want to talk about right now. And
24 also, I was thinking about starting a business, and
25 doing the business plan, thinking about the budget

1 hike -- the hike in electricity, is something that
2 I'm kind of scared to start a business, because it
3 could be something that I couldn't afford. So just
4 take that into consideration as far as the economy
5 and how that might affect future business owners.

6 I'm not here representing anybody but myself;
7 however, I'm here because I work for the United Way
8 211 Hotline, and daily I take phone calls from
9 people who can't afford their utility bills. And
10 it's discouraging to me and it's heartbreaking,
11 because I have to give them -- sometimes I can give
12 them referrals and sometimes I can't. Let's see if
13 I can read this.

14 I can state that I give resources in the ZIP
15 Code in this area frequently, perhaps three or four
16 times a day, and I work two or three times a week
17 and I'm part-time. This encompasses probably only
18 my call volume, not the call volume of my fellow
19 counselors.

20 One of my other concerns is that charitable
21 organizations -- which I can state are not State --
22 that are available out there, and there's not many
23 that can help, are often out of funds by the middle
24 of the month, it seems like, so that when people
25 call, all I can say is, "Um, I'm sorry. Try again

1 next month." And it's hard and I'm hearing the
2 stories that, you know, I may hear on the phone,
3 I'm hearing them from separate individuals.

4 And so this hike could potentially financially
5 overwhelm those on a fixed budget. That's been
6 heard. And those struggling to get by, due to job
7 loss or unemployment issues. That's been heard.
8 And also I think that it's just going to not only
9 overwhelm the people that are out there trying to
10 pay the bills, but overwhelm those charitable
11 organizations that are trying to help them pay the
12 bills.

13 So that's my concern, because when I'm getting
14 all those calls and I have to say, "I'm sorry, try
15 again next month" -- and I get it a lot, as, you
16 know, someone who works there -- I just had to come
17 say something, when I heard there was a hearing.
18 So maybe I have survivor's guilt. I can pay my
19 electric bill. But there's people who can't, and
20 I'm concerned for them. Thank you.

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. Mr. Burgess, do
22 you have any questions?

23 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions for Ms. Farris.

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards?

25 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

2 [No response]

3 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Thank you.

4 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** At this time, we're going
6 to take a 15-minute break. Our court --

7 **VOICE:** Ahhh.

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Our court reporter has to
9 have a break, and she's actually gone over the time
10 it takes her. So, we will be back at 20 after 8.

11 [WHEREUPON, a recess was taken from 8:00
12 to 8:20 p.m.]

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** This hearing will now come
14 to order. Mr. Melchers, if you could call the next
15 witness, please.

16 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you, Madam Chairman.
17 Stuart Irick? I-r-i-c-k? Stuart Irick, Pinewood
18 Drive, in Summerville?

19 [No response]

20 **MR. MELCHERS:** Not present? Okay. Margaret
21 Turney. Margaret Turney.

22 **VOICE:** Thomas?

23 **MR. MELCHERS:** No, ma'am. T-u-r-n-e-y.

24 **VOICE:** Okay. I'm Thomas.

25 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thanks for asking. Is Ms.

1 Turney here?

2 [No response]

3 **MR. MELCHERS:** Okay. Mr. Robertson or Ms.
4 Robertson? The first name is S-u-n-t-a-f-e,
5 Robertson?

6 [No response]

7 **MR. MELCHERS:** Is there a Ms. or Mr. Robertson
8 present?

9 [No response]

10 **MR. MELCHERS:** Okay. Jim McGraw? Jim McGraw,
11 of Summerville.

12 **VOICE:** He had to leave.

13 **MR. MELCHERS:** Okay. Thank you, sir. James
14 Blyth. James Blyth.

15 [No response]

16 **MR. MELCHERS:** From Creekside Mobile Home
17 Park, Mr. Blyth.

18 **VOICE:** He left.

19 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you. Mary Taylor, of
20 Sledge Street. Mary Taylor?

21 [No response]

22 **VOICE:** Well, you can imagine what they all
23 wanted to say, can't you?

24 **MR. MELCHERS:** Ernest Walker? Ernest Walker.

25 **VOICE:** He left.

1 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you. Charles Nystrum, of
2 Summerville. Charles Nystrum.

3 [No response]

4 **MR. MELCHERS:** Joanne Liles? Joanne Liles, of
5 Edisto?

6 [No response]

7 **MR. MELCHERS:** Kevin Curry, of Summerville?
8 Kevin Curry?

9 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

10 THEREUPON came,

11 **K E V I N C U R R Y ,**

12 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
13 follows:

14 **WITNESS:** My name is Kevin, K-e-v-i-n, last
15 name is Curry, C-u-r-r-y. I live at 120 Marshside
16 Drive, in Summerville, 29485, something like that.

17 Unlike the young lady that spoke earlier, I'd
18 like to state for the record that it's pretty sorry
19 of SCE&G to send three attorneys with no
20 management. I think it's very sorry. Then again,
21 I've began to think SCE&G was a sorry bunch of
22 managers in the first place.

23 **VOICES:** Ooh.

24 **WITNESS:** You've heard lots of people here
25 talk about how the economy's bad. We all know

1 that. You've heard a couple of people get up here
2 and talk about how they've lost their jobs. We've
3 heard about that. Maybe we'd have a few less
4 people without a job if SCE&G hired somebody out of
5 South Carolina to cut trees, instead of somebody
6 out of New York.

7 **VOICE:** That's right.

8 **VOICE:** Yeah.

9 **VOICE:** That's right.

10 **WITNESS:** I find it extremely difficult to
11 believe that it's cheaper to bring a horde of
12 people down from New York to cut trees, when you
13 have tree cutters right here in South Carolina.
14 No, I am not a tree cutter. No, I am not running
15 for office. I do believe in nuclear energy. Been
16 around them for a long time. I believe in
17 drilling. But I don't understand why they're
18 bringing people out of New York to cut trees. I'm
19 sure one of the excuses would've been, "Well,
20 there's no company around large enough to handle
21 the job." Here's a novel idea: break the area
22 into regions and hire regional companies. You put
23 people to work, then they can pay that --

24 [Applause]

25 **WITNESS:** -- electric bill. Because one of my

1 questions would be, if they ain't working, then how
2 the hell are they going to pay this?

3 **VOICE:** Right.

4 **VOICE:** Right.

5 [Applause]

6 **WITNESS:** You'll excuse me if I get a little
7 upset. I'm one of the lucky ones. My wife has a
8 good job, I have a good job. I'm also a retired
9 United States Marine. So I have an income and I
10 can pay my bill. Thank God.

11 **VOICE:** For now.

12 **VOICE:** Right.

13 **WITNESS:** SCE&G -- now I'm going to tell you a
14 little story about SCE&G, and it has nothing to do
15 with producing power. This 9 percent, if I'm not
16 mistaken in this, is supposed to go to maintenance
17 and tree cutting. Well, here's a little story
18 about tree cutting by SCE&G and a little company
19 out of New York. I used to have six, eight little
20 trees, dwarf trees. They grow, I don't know,
21 they're not even as high as this ceiling. And they
22 used to act as a buffer. They were planted to be a
23 buffer, between my house and the other houses and
24 the school, Beech Hill School.

25 Well, there's no buffer behind my house

1 anymore, or the neighbor to the left. Why? Well,
2 because a bunch of boneheads from New York showed
3 up and ran over them with a truck. Trees that big
4 around [indicating]. No chainsaw, no saw, they
5 just took their truck and ran over them.

6 My wife wanted to know why. I wanted to know
7 why. Well, the bonehead that was running the crew
8 said, well, the chief supervisor for maintenance
9 for District -- or, for Dorchester County School
10 District 2 wanted them taken out. He didn't want
11 the ones three houses down that are directly
12 underneath the lines and growing into the power
13 lines, didn't want them removed. He didn't want
14 any of the ones to the left of my house, didn't
15 want them removed. Just the ones behind my house
16 and my neighbor to the left. Which wasn't even in
17 the easement. But they ran over them with the
18 truck anyway.

19 Unfortunately for him, her cousin happens to
20 work for, guess who, Dorchester County District 2.
21 "Hey, you guys know anything about these trees
22 being knocked down, the chief supervisor for
23 maintenance wanted them down?" "I don't know.
24 He's right here, do you want to talk to him?"
25 "Sure." "You know anything about it?" "Nope, I

1 didn't ask them to take nothing down. I'll be out
2 at your house." He comes out. "What in the world
3 have they done," because not only did they drive
4 over the trees, they left all the trash. Of
5 course, then, why should they care? If you're from
6 New York, you're not going to run into me at a
7 grocery store, you're not going to run into my wife
8 down at the school. You're not going to run into
9 me at all, because when the job is done you hop in
10 your truck and you're headed back to New York.
11 What do you care what kind of carnage you left?

12 **VOICE:** That's right.

13 **WITNESS:** They cut down trees, or drove down
14 trees that weren't in their easement, that did not
15 need to be removed; they did not remove trees that
16 needed to be removed.

17 Well, let's talk a bit about what I learned as
18 a Marine 22, almost 23 years. I used to give
19 classes on how to get things done. I could move
20 1,500 Marines 6,000 miles with all the beans,
21 bullets, and band-aids they needed to fight. These
22 guys can't even run a tree-cutting operation. But
23 then again, I don't have a degree in underwater
24 basket-weaving, so what do I know about a power
25 company? I know how to get trees done. I know how

1 to get a job done.

2 Did anybody supervise? No. What is the most
3 important step in a leadership process?

4 Supervision. I don't know if they need a pay incr-
5 -- or, a rate increase, or not. I do know that
6 they need some new management.

7 And as a taxpayer, I got one big problem. I
8 don't understand why a public utility that has a
9 monopoly is running a \$200 million profit. It
10 seems to me that when you have a monopoly that
11 serves the public, either A, you open it up to a
12 free market and drive down the cost, or B, you're a
13 nonprofit organization. But that's something I
14 will take up with my State Legislature.

15 Do not vote this increase in, because until
16 they show that they can manage what they've got,
17 they don't need to be building or doing anything
18 else.

19 **VOICE:** All right.

20 **VOICE:** Hoorah.

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Burgess -- just a
22 minute. Mr. Burgess.

23 **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions of Mr.
24 Curry.

25 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Ms. Edwards?

1 MS. EDWARDS: No questions.

2 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: Commissioners? Any
3 questions?

4 [No response]

5 CHAIRMAN FLEMING: All right, thank you.

6 VOICE: You go, boy.

7 MR. MELCHERS: Thank you, sir.

8 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

9 MR. MELCHERS: Sam Shifflett. Sam Shifflett.

10 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

11 THEREUPON came,

12 S A M S H I F F L E T T,

13 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
14 follows:

15 WITNESS: Sam Shifflett, 7674 North Haven
16 Drive, North Charleston, South Carolina.

17 I just have a few items I want to illustrate
18 here, and it won't be very long at all. On this
19 rate increase that South Carolina Electric Light &
20 Gas is requesting, it seems to me that every time
21 there is an expenditure to be made, the customer
22 pays for it. And I don't understand why a company
23 as large as South Carolina Electric Light & Gas,
24 that has a monopoly, which shouldn't be -- there
25 should be other utilities service these areas,

1 rather than them, but that's the way it's set up,
2 and I fully disagree with it. But why they don't
3 set aside out of their budget an operating account
4 to take in these extra expenses that are going to
5 come their way every so often. Some can be
6 programmed, some cannot be, but they know they've
7 got them. But the operating that they do is to
8 pass the increases on to the customer and continue
9 to pay the stockholders a good rate of income for
10 their investments, and also the hierarchy in the
11 company, the executives, they get their salary
12 increases, and it all comes back to us, the
13 consumer of their product.

14 The other item that I had, the other point of
15 contention, is that -- well, I've already stated
16 we're a captive customer base. We have to have
17 electricity, so we buy it from them. The meters
18 that they use to measure the consumption that we,
19 as customers, use, we pay a rental fee for them,
20 and I can't understand for the life of me how that
21 was ever injected into the cost of our bills. If I
22 go to the grocery store and I purchase meat in the
23 meat market, I don't pay for a scale fee.

24 **VOICE:** Right.

25 **WITNESS:** And that to me is beyond my

1 comprehension, how anybody of any intelligence
2 could approve a fee like that to be levied on the
3 customer. We don't own those meters. We don't
4 need those meters; they need the meters. They put
5 the meters in place; they check the meters and send
6 us our bill. And that is completely ridiculous,
7 and I can't understand any commission or anyone
8 else that would approve of something like that when
9 it comes before them.

10 **VOICE:** Is that true? We rent our meter?

11 **WITNESS:** Now, they've also, recently, put in
12 new meters, which are theirs, but they've also cut
13 down on the number of the meter readers they need
14 to read the meters. They just drive by, and they
15 have a little instrument that automatically reads
16 the meters. So that's a savings to them, but not
17 to us. And why they need this increase, a terrific
18 increase in rates, I don't understand, because they
19 do better management and implement such as the
20 meters that I just explained, they can operate much
21 more efficiently and not charge exorbitant prices
22 for their commodity.

23 But what we need is competitiveness. We need
24 other utilities to supply this State and make them
25 competitive. If South Carolina Electric Light &

1 Gas can't cut it, maybe another company can, say
2 Duke. They're up in the northern part -- the
3 western part of the State. Let's bring some other
4 companies in and make them competitive.

5 That's my stand tonight on everything that I
6 intended to say. A bunch of other things have
7 already been said, so there's no need to be beating
8 over those. And I'm finished Madam Chair.

9 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay, thank you. Mr.
10 Burgess.

11 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions, Madam Chair.

12 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards.

13 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

14 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Just a minute.
16 Commissioners?

17 [No response]

18 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Thank you, Mr.
19 Shifflett.

20 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

21 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you, sir.

22 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

23 **MR. MELCHERS:** Ms. Rooman? R-o-o-m-a-n, Ms.
24 Rooman?

25 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

1 THEREUPON came,

2 A N G E L A R O O M A N ,

3 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
4 follows:

5 **WITNESS:** Hi. My name is Angela Rooman, and
6 I'm actually the owner of Aging Gracefully at 4003
7 Ladson Road.

8 And we've listened to everybody speak on
9 behalf of residential, but I'd like to take a
10 moment of your time and speak to you what it's like
11 to be a small business owner, trying to struggle to
12 basically stay alive.

13 We provide services to senior citizens in all
14 three counties, and we strive to provide these
15 services to struggling caregivers taking care of
16 their mothers, fathers, with any form of dementia,
17 mainly Alzheimer's. And every month -- my building
18 is about 42-4300 square feet, and my electric bill
19 ranges from \$500-\$900 a month. It's not a 24/7
20 facility. They come there during the day and they
21 go home at night.

22 And honestly, I went into this to help the
23 elderly, because I love senior citizens. I've been
24 a geriatric nurse since '97. I can go and be an RN
25 and make \$30 an hour and not have to work 12-hour

1 days six days a week, like I do. And also, I'm
2 going to tell you all something personal. Last
3 year in 2009, because of all the hikes and
4 increases across the board, I paid myself \$4,000
5 last year, and I work 12-hour shifts six days a
6 week to provide a service to the senior citizens of
7 this area. And I think it's really sad that large
8 companies like SCE&G can pay out everything that
9 they do and make the small businesses and residents
10 that are struggling each day take the brunt of
11 whatever they're doing with their money. I can
12 honestly say where my money goes, and it goes back
13 to the people that pay me each day to provide them
14 a service. I don't go out and I don't have high-
15 price meals and I don't hire large attorneys --
16 many attorneys, or misuse my money in any way. I
17 can tell you every penny that I bring in and where
18 it is. And I think it's a sad world that we have
19 to live in right now, that the people that want to
20 help others that are suffering have to struggle,
21 but if you work for a large company that makes the
22 amount of money that they make, they can go home at
23 night with their \$100,000 salary per year and, you
24 know, get to spend time with their children. I
25 have one-year-old twins at home, I have a six-year-

1 old girl, and I think it's sad that I can't spend
2 more time with them because I'm out trying every
3 day to keep my business alive so that I can
4 continue to help senior citizens in this area.

5 And I just wanted to make it known that, you
6 know, not just the residents of this area are
7 suffering. The small businesses need to survive,
8 or you're going to have 15 more unemployed people
9 at the line, because that's how many people I
10 employ at the moment, and that's where it's going.

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. Mr. Burgess.

12 **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions.

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards.

14 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

16 **COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:** Madam Chairman?

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Yes, Commissioner
18 Whitfield.

19 **COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:** Thank you, Madam
20 Chairman.

21 **EXAMINATION**

22 **BY COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:**

23 **Q** Ms. Rومان, you said you had 15 employees, right?

24 **A** Yes, sir.

25 **Q** How many people do you serve at your facility?

1 **A** We serve between 40 and 50 clients, and we provide adult
2 day care services and home care in their homes when they
3 can't come to us.

4 **Q** Thank you. And it's daytime only, I think you said,
5 right?

6 **A** The day care is daytime only, and the home care is 24/7.

7 **COMMISSIONER WHITFIELD:** Thank you. Thank
8 you for coming out.

9 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right.

10 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

11 **VOICE:** Thank you.

12 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you, ma'am.

13 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

14 **MR. MELCHERS:** Joan Hoyte? Joan Hoyte.

15 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

16 THEREUPON came,

17 **J O A N H O Y T E ,**

18 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
19 follows:

20 **WITNESS:** My name is Joan Hoyte. I live at
21 5014 West Liberty Meadows Drive, Summerville.

22 And the first thing I want to do is to thank
23 everyone who came out. And I don't know what
24 happened to the rest of the people that left early.

25 We should call South Carolina "South Carolina,

1 owned and operated by SCE&G." This was like
2 Virginia years ago. I'd like to first ask how will
3 we know how the Public Service Commission, you all,
4 vote? Okay? There was an editorial in the paper
5 and this is how it goes: SCE&G goes to Public
6 Service Commission for their rate increase. They
7 ask for a 7 percent, they get 3 or 4 percent. They
8 ask for a 9.4 percent, they'll get a 5 percent, and
9 then they'll tell them -- tell the consumer, "Well,
10 we only gave them half of what they asked for, so
11 feel good about that."

12 Okay. So there are so many people out of
13 work, I won't even go on with that -- people who
14 try to help other people support their family,
15 support friends. They just cannot pay those
16 electric bills. They just can't pay them. I have
17 a neighbor who hasn't had electricity in two weeks.
18 She went to the Salvation Army. They can't help
19 her until -- there was another speaker here --
20 until May, when they get more funds. Why can't
21 they call SCE&G and ask for some help? Okay?

22 And I think Public Service is a misnomer. I
23 do not think the Public Service Commission is in
24 service for the public. I really don't. Okay?
25 Because you always give them their raises, one way

1 or another.

2 Okay, I guess that's all. And I'm just glad
3 so many people came out. I mean, they're making a
4 statement here. We're making a statement here.
5 Give it a break.

6 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Just a minute, Ms. Hoyte.
7 Mr. Burgess.

8 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions.

9 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards.

10 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

11 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

12 [No response]

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right, you may --

14 **WITNESS:** And are you all paid? Is the Public
15 Service Commission paid, reimbursed, or are you all
16 volunteers?

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** We are not allowed to
18 answer questions from the --

19 **WITNESS:** I know, you're not allowed to answer
20 so many questions.

21 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you, ma'am.

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** The information is on our
23 website.

24 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

25 **MR. MELCHERS:** John Mallon.

[Witness sworn/affirmed]

THEREUPON came,

J O H N M A L L O N ,

who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as follows:

WITNESS: My name is John Mallon. I live at 109 Sugarpine Place, Summerville, South Carolina, ZIP Code 29483.

I'm here because I work for nothing. Let me give you an idea of what I'm talking about. I belong to the Knights of Columbus. They have a charitable committee. We try to help people who need help. I also am on the Council for St. Vincent de Paul, which is another charitable organization. I belong to the Silver Haired Legislature of South Carolina. I'm an AARP legislative volunteer.

Now, this means nothing, except that I try to support the people of this State by whatever means I can, and all others. And I have to admit that -- SCE&G, in asking the State regulators to approve a 10 percent hike, phased over 18 months, the rate increase will be \$140 annually for every household that they service -- AARP is concerned that this rate hike will make essential energy services

1 unaffordable for many South Carolinian families.

2 SCE&G already is paid some of the highest
3 electrical rates in the State. Consumers are still
4 receiving from last winter's record cold which cost
5 SCE&G bills to increase by 34 percent due to higher
6 usage. This rate hike is on top of the annual 2.5
7 rate increase that consumers will pay for the next
8 ten years to fund a nuclear power plant. The rates
9 could increase even more, if the price of fuel,
10 such as coal and natural gas, is increased.

11 SCE&G is asking for an increased profit margin
12 of 11.6 percent for their stockholders, which is 80
13 percent higher than all other electric utilities in
14 the United States.

15 Gentlemen, ladies, please understand I'm
16 concerned for the individuals who have to face
17 these increases. I myself am a retiree. I got no
18 raise this year. I got no Social Security
19 increase. The amount of increase we got for the
20 last two years and for the future is zero, and may
21 remain that way. Why do we allow SCE&G to ask for
22 a 10 or 11 percent increase, when, in fact, they
23 have the highest profit margin of any utility in
24 the United States, bar none.

25 Gentlemen and ladies, I know you've heard many

1 reasons here why, and all I'm doing is saying it
2 over again. We need to help those who are in need.
3 With unemployment at 12.3 percent in this State,
4 11.9 in this region, we ask you to please consider
5 all these factors and deny a rate increase, fellow
6 toast- -- I'm a Toastmaster, too. That's why I'm
7 here to speak. I thank you for your service. I
8 know you're appointed and you get some salary, and
9 I know that, still, you are concerned enough about
10 the people that you will at least listen. Thank
11 you. Questions from the counselor?

12 **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions.

13 **WITNESS:** He has no questions. I didn't think
14 he was going to have any questions. And over here,
15 did you get everything you need?

16 **MS. EDWARDS:** I think so. Thank you, sir.

17 **WITNESS:** All right. You're so pretty, I'd
18 even give you my phone number.

19 [Laughter]

20 **WITNESS:** Who dates senior citizens? Okay,
21 anyone else?

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

23 [No response]

24 <

25 <

EXAMINATION**BY CHAIRMAN FLEMING:**

Q I wanted to clarify something you said. What was the 80 percent pertaining to, was that the profit margin?

A No, the -- I said they get 80 percent -- their profit margin they're looking for is 11.6 in the coming years, which is much higher than most utilities, and they are 80 percent higher than most other electrical utilities in the State -- in the United States.

Q And do you have a source for that?

A The source has been compiled by AARP national community advocates. And I go to them, and they have a bunch of reading. I've been reading on this for a while, but I had to go specifically to them and they gave me some utility.com type place, and I typed in "SCE&G," and they were one of the highest profit-margin utilities in the United States. I don't remember the exact number; they may have been number eight, but they were up there.

Q Okay. I was just going to ask if you would like to send your source --

A Oh, I wish I could. All I can say is most of the stuff I got is from AARP.

Q Okay.

A And I do represent AARP as a volunteer, as I mentioned earlier, and it's a public service thing that I do.

1 **Q** Okay. And that was most utilities in the United States?

2 **A** In the United States --

3 **Q** Okay.

4 **A** -- including Hawaii and Alaska.

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay, thank you.

6 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

7 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Are there any other
8 questions?

9 [No response]

10 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** If not, you may sit down.

11 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

12 **MR. MELCHERS:** Ms. Salvo? Cynthia Salvo?

13 **MS. SALVO:** How you all doing? I thank
14 everybody for their time.

15 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

16 THEREUPON came,

17 **C Y N T H I A S A L V O ,**

18 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
19 follows:

20 **WITNESS:** Cynthia Salvo, Post Office Box 53,
21 Ridgeville, South Carolina 29472.

22 Again, I thank everybody for their time.

23 First thing I'd like to bring up is on the front of
24 this little book which I haven't had a chance to
25 read over yet, it has some pretty strong words

1 here, which says -- the words say "At work for the
2 Public Interest." At work for the public interest.
3 Comes from the ORS but I'm assuming that would
4 apply to you folks, as well. Some pretty powerful
5 words. I'm hoping that the policy and the practice
6 are synonymous.

7 As I said, I'm from Ridgeville. When the
8 census comes out a little bit later on and we get
9 our numbers, I'm sure that it will prove that I'm
10 right in saying that most of our residents are
11 elderly and on fixed incomes. Personally, if I get
12 any more frugal, in the words of Chris Farley, I'm
13 going to be living in a van down by the river,
14 because I've cut every cost that I can. I read my
15 meter religiously, both my gas meter and electric.
16 It's not rocket science. The average person
17 doesn't know how to do it. When we get done, if
18 anybody wants a little crash course on how to read
19 their meter, I'll be happy to give it to them.

20 I believe that if a second look is taken at
21 all of your cost analyses, SCE&G, that you can do
22 this, any future projects, this one or whatever,
23 based on income and revenue that you already have
24 on hand. I believe that. I believe where there's
25 a will, there's a way.

1 To the Public Service Commission, I ask that
2 you absolutely deny this rate increase.

3 **VOICE:** Absolutely.

4 **WITNESS:** And when you go home tonight and you
5 get in the bed, I hope some of you are up part of
6 the night thinking about it, because this is very
7 serious. I'm hoping that you all take this very
8 serious, and consider that for every one person
9 that's spoken here tonight -- I don't have numbers,
10 but it's not rocket science to know and to say that
11 for every one or two people that speak, you
12 probably have hundreds or thousands of other people
13 who feel the same way.

14 **VOICE:** Amen.

15 **VOICE:** That's right.

16 **VOICE:** Amen.

17 **WITNESS:** In Ridgeville, for example, a lot of
18 the people are old, and their main focus is getting
19 to their next doctor's appointment. They don't
20 have the energy, the spite, and the irritation, and
21 the anger that I have, because I've just about had
22 enough.

23 I'm going to pick up my pace because I have
24 some points I want to make. Heyward Hutson made
25 some interesting points about the 6 percent

1 dividend to shareholders, which I think is
2 unconscionable, and as well as the franchise fees
3 that the city puts. That's going to have an
4 effect, too, with municipalities. Ridgeville is a
5 municipality.

6 I'd also like to reiterate that I am
7 astounded, for lack of a better word -- and that's
8 really not adequate to address what I think and
9 what most people think -- that SCE&G sent a bunch
10 of lawyers here and no management. I think that is
11 absolutely absurd. As far as I'm concerned, you
12 are a monopoly, SCE&G, because if I had a choice to
13 get my power from another source other than going
14 off the grid, you people would be fired on the
15 spot. You would be axed. You would be out of my
16 yard and out of my life.

17 **VOICE:** Yes.

18 **WITNESS:** So in that sense, you are a
19 monopoly. I think net metering is up there with
20 the Pentagon secrets -- and again, I'm going to
21 pick it up here, real fast, because I'm running out
22 of time. I'd like for everybody to think -- look
23 at those words and think on them hard, and ask that
24 this be the practice and not the policy
25 [indicating].

1 You want to crank me up for another five?

2 [Laughter]

3 **WITNESS:** I'm not trying to amuse you folks.
4 Especially you [indicating].

5 **MR. BURGESS:** Madam Chairman we have no
6 questions of this witness.

7 **WITNESS:** I'm happy that I did amuse you, but
8 that was not my point. Questions?

9 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Oh, you're finished? Ms.
10 Edwards, do you have any questions?

11 **MS. EDWARDS:** No, Madam Chair, I don't.

12 **WITNESS:** Nobody's got any questions?

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

14 [No response]

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Thank you.

16 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you.

17 **WITNESS:** Thank you.

18 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

19 **MR. MELCHERS:** Margaret Thomas? Margaret
20 Thomas?

21 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

22 THEREUPON came,

23 **M A R G A R E T T H O M A S ,**

24 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
25 follows:

1 **WITNESS:** My name is Margaret Thomas. I live
2 at 394 Lone Tree Lane, Yemassee, South Carolina.
3 I'm a recent -- I have recently moved here from
4 another city and state. And upon being here for
5 the year and three to four months, I believe, I
6 have never heard or witnessed a place such as South
7 Carolina. I have heard and also experienced very,
8 very bad things. And for a newcomer, it just
9 shouldn't be that way. It should be so much
10 different. I don't really have the words, but I'm
11 quite sure I'm not the only newcomer here. But it
12 shouldn't be where I don't know who to come to and
13 ask for something, or for help -- I'm not looking
14 for help or a hand -- a hand-out; I'm looking for a
15 hand.

16 So my thing is that I had an electric bill
17 last year which was very, very enormous, and it's
18 just one adult and a seven-year-old child who is in
19 school most of the day. I don't burn a lot of
20 lights. I'm disabled.

21 Since I came to South Carolina and tried to
22 voice my opinion about different things, South
23 Carolina has awarded me with discontinuation of my
24 disability, so therefore I'm on a very, very tight
25 income. So I can't afford to pay any more hikes

1 than what I'm doing now. And the large bills that
2 I'm receiving -- I didn't bring my proof with me
3 but, yeah, I can get them and send copies.

4 But in the meantime, I called the company and
5 ask them why was my bill so high. So, he said,
6 "It's summertime. You burn your electric fans and
7 you burn your air conditioner." So I said, "Sorry,
8 I don't," because I have arthritis all over. Look
9 at me. I wish I had somebody else's sweater,
10 because my bones hurt. So I don't use any air
11 conditioner in the summertime. And there's a fan,
12 and my fan is about from here to where you are
13 [indicating], just so to move the air around me,
14 because I'm in constant pain. So I'm paying a
15 large amount of money for services that's just not
16 rendered.

17 So I'm asking you, not just for me but for a
18 lot of people who cannot afford it, don't do this.
19 That's it.

20 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Thank you. Mr.
21 Burgess.

22 **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions of Ms.
23 Thomas.

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards?

25 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

1 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

2 [No response]

3 **WITNESS:** Thank you, very much.

4 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you.

5 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you, Ms. Thomas.

6 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

7 **MR. MELCHERS:** Peggie Hammonds, of Walterboro?
8 Peggie Hammonds, of Walterboro?

9 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

10 THEREUPON came,

11 **P E G G I E H A M M O N D S**

12 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
13 follows:

14 **WITNESS:** Peggie Hammonds, 106 Park Avenue,
15 Walterboro, South Carolina.

16 First of all, I'm very pleased to be here.
17 The reason why I'm very pleased to be here tonight
18 is because usually I talk about SCE&G behind their
19 back --

20 [Laughter]

21 **WITNESS:** -- and tonight I get the opportunity
22 to bring it to the horse's mouth.

23 First of all, I live in a neighborhood where I
24 feel that because of SCE&G, we have a very small
25 amount of lighting in our neighborhood, which

1 causes and allows crime to really go up. There's
2 very small lighting. I mean, there's a pole here,
3 and a light over -- a little light over there.
4 That's one of the things. So South Carolina --
5 SCE&G contributes to crime, in my neighborhood
6 especially.

7 Also, during the cold months of this year,
8 SCE&G was turning off electricity in people's
9 homes. There's a young lady who has four children
10 and she was pregnant, live in a trailer. SCE&G, on
11 the very coldest night in Walterboro, sent someone
12 out that day and terminated her services.
13 Pregnant, with a nine-year-old boy, she had a
14 seven-year-old, and I know there's a baby, and one
15 other child. Now you know what? I've heard of
16 some low things, I've really heard of some low
17 things.

18 See, personally, what I feel about SCE&G and
19 people like you all is, I think y'all are part of
20 the problem and part of the plan, and that's to
21 keep broke people broke. And I don't think you all
22 care about human beings whatsoever. I think it's
23 just part of a plot and you all are part of that
24 plot to eliminate poor people. That's what I
25 think. That's my personal opinion. That's what I

1 think. That's what you all are here for, is to
2 keep broke people broke. You know? I ain't going
3 to say poor, because I don't feel like I'm poor,
4 but I'm always broke because of you all.

5 I stay at my mom's and I take care of her.
6 And believe it or not, I'm at my mom's house -- my
7 brother comes from Columbia to give me a break on
8 Wednesday night and Thursday night, and Friday
9 morning he goes back. I'm at my mom's house all
10 evening, because I work during the daytime. All
11 evening I'm at my mom's house. And guess what, at
12 the end of every single month, I have a humongous
13 bill. Even my neighbors talk about it. They say,
14 "We can't believe what's going on with you, because
15 you're never home." They said -- I call and they
16 say, "Well, turn off your water heater. Turn your
17 lights off," in the highest crime area tell folks
18 to turn their lights off. You know? I mean,
19 thieves can see through the dark, but we can't see
20 through the dark.

21 So again, I think you all are terrible. If
22 you work for SCE&G, I think y'all are some terrible
23 people. Again, I think y'all are part of a plot in
24 the United States of America to eliminate broke
25 people.

1 **VOICE:** And keep you broke.

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Hammonds?

3 **WITNESS:** Oh, okay.

4 **MR. BURGESS:** Madam Chairman, we have no
5 questions.

6 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. Ms. Edwards.

7 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

8 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners.

9 [No response]

10 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right. You may --

11 **WITNESS:** You see? Always unconcerned, right?
12 Always. Never got no questions, but got all the
13 answers.

14 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you, Ms. Hammonds.

15 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

16 **MR. MELCHERS:** John Calvert? John Calvert?

17 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

18 THEREUPON came,

19 **J O H N C A L V E R T ,**

20 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
21 follows:

22 **WITNESS:** First of all, I want to thank
23 everybody for letting me speak tonight. I wasn't
24 on the agenda, and I guess I might be the last one
25 to speak. But I want to say that you have heard

1 just about everything that could be going on in our
2 society. This rate increase is going to affect
3 everyone, including our district -- our school
4 district. They have to lay off people, cut
5 budgets. They're having -- Dorchester 2 is having
6 to just get by with what little they can, anymore,
7 because they don't have the money. Well, it's
8 going to affect them, because they're going to have
9 to actually increase their energy bill, so that's
10 going to cut into their budget.

11 As far as anything else, everybody's going to
12 be affected. Groceries, we're going to have to pay
13 for higher grocery bills. Gas is increasing, and
14 we're going to have to pay for higher energy for
15 that. We're going to have to -- everything that we
16 use in the energy level is going to be so hard on
17 us to pay for these things, because I am on fixed
18 income.

19 I'm a caregiver. My wife has MS. Now it
20 takes a certain temperature at my house, because if
21 I don't keep a certain temperature in that house,
22 it's a life-or-death situation for her. And I'm
23 not the only one in that position. There's people
24 who are -- have to maintain certain temperatures in
25 their house or, like I say, it's a life-and-death

1 situation. This increase is affecting everybody's
2 budget, and it's hard for us to pay for increases
3 that we can't afford.

4 The time has come to say no to this increase.
5 This is not the time, with an economy like it is
6 today. People are out of work, you've heard
7 everybody talk about fixed income. I just cannot
8 believe that we need to be paying for something
9 that hasn't been built. I do not believe we need
10 to be paying for something because we're looking at
11 the bottom dollar here, and how much more of an
12 increase they can get in their budget. Thank you.

13 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you. Mr. Burgess?

14 **MR. BURGESS:** No questions for Mr. Calvert.

15 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Ms. Edwards.

16 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

18 [No response]

19 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you, sir.

20 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

21 **MR. MELCHERS:** Is Vena Cooper here? Vena
22 Cooper, of Walterboro?

23 **MS. COOPER:** Vera.

24 **MR. MELCHERS:** Vera? I'm sorry. Vera Cooper,
25 of Walterboro.

[Witness sworn/affirmed]

THEREUPON came,

V E R A C O O P E R ,

who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as follows:

WITNESS: My name is Vera Youngblood Cooper, and I am from Wiley Street, Wiley-Bethae Street Subdivision of Walterboro, South Carolina. And as you all know, that is a, quote, "political arena area," and most of us that live there, that's our home. I'm 60 years old. I helped my daddy build the home back in there. Well, at one point, they want to come in and take our homes, and I represented my people then. I says, "No, you will not do that."

South Carolina Electric & Gas have so much to do with my area. We begged them, we begged them to come out and help us to clean our area up. And until -- December 25th, this past year, this big tree came down across my walkway. Thank God my military son was there. He says, "Mama, get on the phone and call." I said, "No, I'm not calling. Let them come on out on their own," because I had done that already, and that could have been avoided. And I had pure D hell trying to get that

1 -- I had to actually pay -- after they cut the tree
2 and laid it across my walkway, I had to actually
3 pay somebody to come out here and finish getting
4 that big tree out of the way, between the South
5 Carolina Electric & Gas and the city. I had -- I
6 says, "I don't believe this."

7 Okay. Now, as far as cutting trees down when
8 they did send somebody out before the windstorm
9 came, to show that what you did is not right,
10 before that, they came out and just made a mess all
11 over the city, from the New York tree cutters, and
12 not only just the New York tree cutters, but they
13 behind the desk, too, because it is no way in the
14 world my electric can be \$600. I agree with her.
15 I agree with him. I -- that -- she knows what
16 she's talking about [indicating].

17 Okay. I'm one person in my house. In the
18 wintertime, I close off my two bedrooms back there,
19 my living room back there. I move everything up
20 into my one bedroom and a kitchen and a place where
21 I can have a little TV. It's no way in the world
22 -- my house not even equipped for a \$600 light
23 bill. I don't have no gas line. I got trees
24 hanging over my house that they say you can't cut
25 because they're an oak tree and an oak tree gets

1 dead, and it's sitting there looking at you,
2 because the city say you can't do this and you
3 can't -- well, we tired. I'm not going to pay \$600
4 for a light bill. I'll let them go off. I'll live
5 without lights. I have a basic cable, ten-channel
6 TV. I don't have no computers up in my house.
7 I've got a stove that two eyes only burn. And yet,
8 when I realized my bill was high, I cut my oven on
9 and tried to burn it up, because I wasn't going to
10 be up in my house cold and scared to get heated,
11 because SCE&G -- which y'all know what I'm talking
12 about, because I am an eyewitness to a line of
13 information that I have seen and it's wrong. God
14 is not pleased with it. He is not pleased with it.
15 We, as I stand here, I represent a lot of people,
16 my community and my church. Those people that
17 stood up, just like the other person say, we
18 represent a lot of people, but now why couldn't you
19 all come into our area where you can ride around
20 and look around and see? Why do we have to spend
21 \$20 and catch a ride to try to come all the way
22 over here to number 200 Main Street, you got to
23 find someplace to park, and you can't hardly park.
24 You got to ride all the way around and look around
25 just so you can come and let you all know how you

1 are interrupting our quality of life. I am at the
2 point, I don't pay nothing, because I don't have
3 the money to do it. And the reason why I'm here
4 tonight, because I want to say this what the Lord
5 give me to say, because it's wrong. You have
6 interrupted people life. People are dying because
7 they cannot pay their bill. They are doing without
8 food and hot water.

9 **VOICE:** Tell it.

10 **WITNESS:** It is wrong. I came over here so I
11 can be here for this. I've got to spend money to
12 stay over here overnight, so I can go and do this
13 here, for \$50, so I can take it and pin it on my
14 light bill. I don't find that necessary.

15 **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions that Ms.
16 Cooper.

17 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Ms. Edwards?

18 **MS. EDWARDS:** [Shaking head.]

19 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

20 [No response]

21 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Well, I think she
22 anticipated that. She's already seated.

23 **WITNESS:** I have pictures and I have my bills,
24 in case you want them. I'm not calling nobody no
25 more. And if y'all don't do the right thing, you

1 better look out, because when you get it wrong you
2 get it wrong to everybody, including yourself.

3 **VOICE:** That's right.

4 **WITNESS:** If you have not seen it, give it a
5 few days. You're going to see it. We don't have
6 money like that. It's wrong and it's not going to
7 be passed.

8 **VOICE:** Do you hear what she's saying?

9 **VOICE:** That's right, it's wrong.

10 **VOICE:** They don't have to worry about their
11 electric bill.

12 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you, Ms. Cooper.

13 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

14 **MR. MELCHERS:** Ms. Cooper is the last witness
15 that we have signed up. Is there anybody else who
16 wants to speak tonight, who has not yet had a
17 chance to speak?

18 **MS. FOLMAR:** Can I change my mind?

19 **MR. MELCHERS:** Yes, ma'am.

20 [Witness sworn/affirmed]

21 THEREUPON came,

22 **M E L A N I E F O L M A R ,**

23 who, having been first duly sworn/affirmed, testified as
24 follows:

25 **WITNESS:** My name is Melanie Folmar. 104

1 Berkeley Square Lane, No. 191, in Goose Creek. And
2 I probably don't even need this microphone.

3 First off, I do want to say thank you to
4 everybody that's here, including SCE&G. I have to
5 admit -- and I'm a lifelong resident of South
6 Carolina. I'm a native, I'm born here. I went
7 through Hugo. I think SCE&G does provide good
8 service when we lose our utilities. They're really
9 fast, and they do a good job in that. And you all
10 are sitting up here taking a lot of gaff from
11 everybody, and I appreciate that, too, but I am
12 going to give a little bit more.

13 Yes, I agree with every single thing that
14 everybody in this room has said, just about, but I
15 think there's more going on. Personally, I've been
16 trying to decide who I think is complicit and knows
17 what's really behind what's going on, because I
18 think, like this lady who stood up a few minutes
19 ago, that there's a lot more coming down the pike
20 than everybody is aware of.

21 And I agree that we may need nuclear energy
22 here in South Carolina. I'm not educated enough
23 about that to really speak to it, and I know there
24 are pros and cons. I do not agree with some of the
25 other so-called sustainable energy that they are

1 looking into. But I also know that I don't want to
2 pay for any sort of device put on my meter that may
3 regulate my usage and how much I may use, and what
4 I may set my thermostat on. And I just wonder how
5 many people know about things that are coming our
6 way, and I think that we're paying for things that
7 are an idea, and I think this is tied to the cap-
8 and-tax, I'll call it, not the cap-and-trade.

9 And I just ask that you all really think about
10 this. I think people think they're going to be
11 exempt from it, and they're not. I can barely pay
12 my bills. I'm a single mother, and I home school
13 my girls. And it's a real struggle. I do come
14 from a family with money, and they also are
15 struggling to pay their utility bills. And sooner
16 or later, it is going to hit everybody.

17 And I just want to make one point. We're all
18 sitting here in this room freezing to death, and
19 it's the taxpayers money --

20 **VOICE:** Thank you.

21 **WITNESS:** -- pretty much that's paying the
22 bill, and we have no say-so; we can't even turn the
23 thermostat up, so that we're not all sitting here
24 in an ice box.

25 **VOICE:** That's right.

1 **WITNESS:** And I think it's a cavalier attitude
2 on behalf of a lot of people -- and I'm not
3 accusing any of you on the Commission of being
4 complicit, I'm just asking you if you know things
5 that I'm alluding to but not really expounding on,
6 just give it a lot of thought and prayer, please,
7 because people are hurting. And I think people who
8 have been very angry have actually done a really
9 good job of being civil in speaking with you all
10 tonight.

11 **VOICE:** Right.

12 **WITNESS:** And most people in this room really
13 don't like y'all very much, and we don't even know
14 you.

15 [Laughter]

16 **WITNESS:** But I think people have been very
17 polite, but it literally is killing people. People
18 are going hungry, people are suffering. And you
19 all are human beings, too; you've got family and
20 you've got parents, and you're going to get
21 elderly, too. And you know what? Something can
22 happen that's beyond anybody's control that can
23 change your financial status. And everybody in
24 this room that can afford to pay their utility bill
25 may find themselves without a job, inexplicably.

1 You may face a devastating disease, which I have
2 done myself, and you may find yourself not able to
3 pay your own utility bill. So I'm just asking you
4 to think, even if you can, that there are people
5 who don't want to take subsidies -- and I know
6 people who don't have to pay anything for their
7 utility bill, who don't work, who get welfare. Why
8 don't you cut those people off and tell them to go
9 out and actually earn some money, and stop paying
10 their utility bills.

11 SCE&G does provide some and the government
12 provides a whole lot more, and the government's
13 money to me is taxpayers' money. So there are a
14 lot of people who aren't even attempting to pay
15 their utility bills on the backs of a lot of people
16 who are paying theirs and others' as well, and are
17 really suffering for it.

18 **VOICE:** That's right.

19 **WITNESS:** We're people, we're not just
20 numbers. Just think about what you're doing,
21 please. Thank you.

22 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Thank you.

23 [Applause]

24 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** If you could just come --
25 if you could just --

1 **WITNESS:** I'm sorry. Yes.

2 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Mr. Burgess.

3 **MR. BURGESS:** We have no questions of Ms.

4 Folmar.

5 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Okay. Ms. Edwards?

6 **MS. EDWARDS:** No questions, thank you.

7 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** Commissioners?

8 [No response]

9 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** All right, you may be
10 seated.

11 **MR. MELCHERS:** Thank you, Ms. Folmar.

12 [WHEREUPON, the witness was excused.]

13 **MR. MELCHERS:** Is there anyone else who has
14 not had an opportunity to speak, who would like to
15 speak this evening?

16 [No response]

17 **MR. MELCHERS:** Okay. We want to thank you for
18 being here. Let me remind you that the hearing
19 that's going to be held in Columbia starts on
20 Monday, May 24th, at 10:30, at the Commission's
21 address at 101 Executive Center Drive, in Columbia.
22 Thank you for your attendance.

23 **CHAIRMAN FLEMING:** We appreciate all of your
24 coming out tonight and what you had to say. Thank
25 you, very much. And we would welcome you at the

1 hearing in Columbia. This hearing -- oh, sorry
2 about that. Also I would like to let you know that
3 the Office of Regulatory Staff and SCE&G members
4 will be here to answer any questions that you may
5 have after the meeting -- hearing, this evening.

6 This hearing is now adjourned.

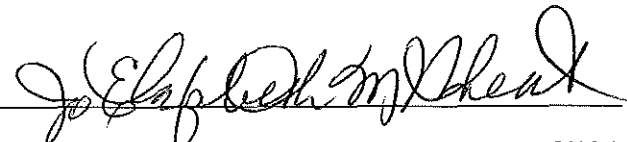
7 [WHEREUPON, at 9:20 p.m., the hearing in
8 the above-entitled matter was adjourned.]

9 _____

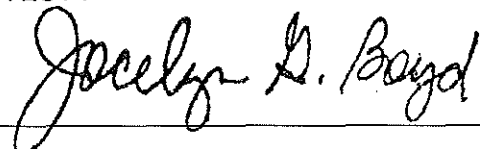
C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM-GNSC, do hereby certify that the foregoing is, to the best of my skill and ability, a true and correct transcript of all the proceedings had and testimony adduced in an evening public hearing held in the above-captioned matter before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this the 3rd day of May, 2010.


Jo Elizabeth M. Wheat, CVR-CM-GNSC

ATTEST:



Jocelyn G. Boyd

Jocelyn G. Boyd

INTERIM CHIEF CLERK/ADMINISTRATOR

NIGHT HEARING/SUMMERVILLE - VOLUME 1

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA